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Exclusive:
The Lenborough Hoard...
What really happened

**Finding the
Seaton Down Hoard**

**Detecting with
Parkinson's disease**



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even programs previously created with the remote control!

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- Ground Balance
- From 2 to 5 tones
- Pitch, Full Tones
- 10 factory programs
- + 8 empty slots for you to save
- Indicates the target's ID
- Volume
- Choice of coil
- Battery condition displayed



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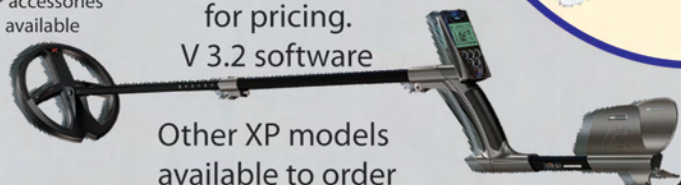
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Photo courtesy of Jack Wallace

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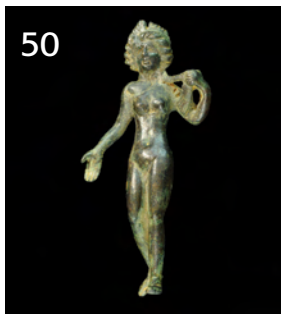
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searchlight

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Front Cover Photo: A selection of coins from the Lenborough Hoard – Copyright PAS

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Harry Bain
Editor/Publisher



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Hello...

Hello and welcome to your March edition of *The Searcher*...

The big news story this month is the magnificent Saxon coin hoard found on the Weekend Wanderers Christmas dig. The media sensationalised the account (little change there) saying that the finder was practically destitute. Unfortunately social media also added to the mix with a video interpreted by some as 'showing how the hoard was excavated in minutes'. Find out what really happened in John Winter's report of Paul Coleman's discovery of the Lenborough Hoard.

The Seaton Down hoard also made the headlines as one of the largest 4th century AD Roman coin hoards found in Britain. The finder gives an exclusive account and Vincent Drost, Project Curator at the British Museum, analyses the hoard.



It is heartwarming to know that the hobby not only helps to unearth pieces of our history but also helps hobbyists with debilitating diseases. Find out how one detectorist copes whilst suffering from Parkinson's disease on page 31.

If you want the news as it happens please don't forget you can follow the magazine on our twitter feed at: [#TheSearcherMag](https://twitter.com/TheSearcherMag) and in the meantime I hope you enjoy the issue.

Harry Bain
Editor

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Want to become an NCMD club?

NEW CLUB memberships are available for the remainder of our year (up until 31 March 2015) for £2 per member, provided you pay next year's subscription of £8 per member (total £10) which will mean you're covered until 31 March 2016.

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Next issue
on sale
27 Feb

Viking VK10+ Competition – WINNER!

The lucky winner of this extremely popular Viking competition was Tony Dinsdale from Weddington near Coventry. Thanks must go to Viking for letting us give one away as a prize too!

Comiserations to all those who were unsuccessful in this instance... look out for more competitions in future issues!



Outstanding Brittonic gold ring

Ludlow Museum has acquired with the help of the Art Fund, the friends of Ludlow Museum and the local archaeological society a post Roman gold ring. It was discovered in 2012 by a detectorist in South Shropshire and it's not been possible to identify any parallels in Roman period gold, therefore the probable date is early to late medieval (circa AD 410-750).

It has been made by fixing six strands of beaded gold wire to a circle of sheet gold. Similar examples of this technique can be seen on objects in the Staffordshire Hoard. Experts are not sure what the ring was used for; it is too large to be worn on the finger. Instead it might have been used as a toggle on clothing or possibly a pommel of a sword. The ring has been described by experts as *"the only prestige piece of Brittonic Dark Age metalwork to have been found in the county"*.

The ring is now on display at Ludlow Museum and Resource Centre, moving to its new home at the Buttercross Museum in Ludlow town centre in the New Year.



New waterproof Pro-Pointer from Garrett



The latest product from Garrett is the **Pro-Pointer AT**. Their best-selling *Pro-Pointer* probe now has a completely new all-terrain version that is fully waterproof to a maximum depth of 10 feet.

Hand-held pinpointers have become essential tools to speed the recovery of coins, rings, and other items dug by detector users. "The exciting thing about the new

environmentally sealed Pro-Pointer AT is its extreme versatility," says Marketing Director Steve Moore. "Our customers have been begging us to make an underwater pinpointer, and we are thrilled to deliver exactly what they want. This is an essential detecting accessory that will offer the user more time spent searching and less time struggling to recover targets."

Garrett's *Pro-Pointer AT* produces an audio and/or vibration alert when it detects a metallic target. The rate of the pulsing audio and vibrations increase proportionately (a patented Garrett feature) as the pinpointer is moved closer to the target. It includes three Sensitivity settings and a Fast Retune feature, both helpful for gold prospectors whose pinpointers can be challenged by the highly mineralised soils they frequently encounter.

It comes in an orange colour that makes it easy to see underwater and easy to find if misplaced in the field. Other new product attributes include: an auto-off feature, a lost pinpointer alarm, LED target illumination, a measuring scale, and a lanyard attachment ring to secure to your belt, digging pouch, vest, or detector.

We will be testing the product in a later edition but for more information and pricing please contact your local Garrett dealer.

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Chris Rudd

An 'Incomplete' Staffordshire Hoard

In December 2012, 60-year-old Tempus member, Graham Withers, found a small coin hoard in a field in North Staffordshire.

Mr Withers discovered them spread out across an area of a few square metres. He suspected a larger store may have been disturbed by a tractor when the field was ploughed during the previous summer. However, although he suspected there could be far more coins, he could not find anything more with his E- Trac and has recently bought a Blisstool V5.

Teresa Gilmore, FLO based at the Birmingham Museum, confirmed the coins had been examined by medieval expert Barrie Cook at the British Museum, and had been confirmed as short cross pennies from between the reigns of Henry II and Henry III.

With a number of different coins, she said the suspicion was that the coins were part of a larger hoard, rather than items lost or dropped. "The profile is a bit odd for a hoard of this size," she said and added: "and would fit with them being part of a larger assemblage."

Teresa went on to comment that archaeologists had yet to excavate the site but cautioned that the number of coins discovered made it difficult to be sure about further finds. "Ten coins is a very small sample size – it's hard to be definite."

The coroner's court heard that the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery were considering whether they could put the items on display.

Dave Sadler



readers

*The opinions and thoughts shared here
by our readers are not necessarily
shared by The Searcher.*

letters

Email: info@thesearcher.co.uk with your letters.
Only genuine names and addresses accepted for publication.

Dear Editor

Drones

I have been a metal detectorist for about 34 years, and have always wondered why people put so much money into buying a machine?

I have always thought that there are other ways to find good things. I have had a Garrett GTA1000 from the day it came out, and I still have it and use it, it is my only machine.

I have always said hunt smart not expensive. The reason I find as much as the very expensive machines is that I use peripheral technology, and that technology is a drone.

I use a drone to fly over my fields and beaches, and other sites to spot lost villages, and other spots that will hold history. I paid £140 for it, and it can go as high as 1000 feet, and film is very good from that height, you can record it and see it live on the control box. So I think that searching smart, not expensive is the way forward.

Frank Docherty

Dear Editor,

Curious item

I was surprised to see your article showing an exact photo of a find by Harry Birchall on page 49 of the February edition, which exactly matches one I found in the 1980's.

I took part in a radio show at the time and was told that the weight of the head against the jaw insert keeps the mouth shut, and it was a kind of good luck charm. For example, a four-leaf clover would be placed in the mouth of the charm and then hung from the loop on the jaw above an entrance (for example) to the home, bringing good fortune. As long as it stayed so would the luck. It sounded like superstitious claptrap to me but made great radio!

I guess this means that bad luck caught up with the owners as both Harry and I found charms with an open – and empty – mouth.

I also saw one on an eBay some weeks ago described a 'French toy finial of a (Victorian period) head of a Zulu, so you can take your pick.

I'm looking forward to getting my next fix by reading The Searcher. I so miss detecting

in England especially as so many great finds keep turning up. May I take this opportunity to say I love your magazine, which I still get every month since moving to Mallorca more than 30 years ago.

Sean Morton



searcherretrospect

twenty years on John Winter looks back

Hoxne valuation published

It was reported that the Treasure Trove Reviewing Committee had taken the unusual step of publishing in full the valuation evidence for the Hoxne Treasure of 14,865 Roman gold, silver and bronze coins plus 200 items of silver tableware and gold jewellery found in 1992.

The reason for this was that there had been some disquiet that the £1.75 million awarded was below the market value. The valuation was arrived at by taking the average of three independent assessments along with that of the British Museum. The assessors quoted from past auction sales and listed comparative material from these against the Hoxne Hoard. The final valuations were all within 7% of each other.

The Searcher welcomed the valuation publication and said that it would “mollify those who were initially critical.” I wonder if it did? The magazine went on to say, “there is no way of accurately valuing the more important parts of the Hoard without going to auction and having national interests bid against the private sector”.

Tours

Twenty-five years ago two of the organisers of the South of England Rally ‘arranged the holiday of a lifetime’. The Californian Gold Rush Tour lasted a fortnight and ‘all the hard work has been done for you’. The stay was in luxury hotels, en-suite rooms and enjoying the ‘friendly hospitality’ of the American people. The cost was £1,995.

Apart from panning and sluicing for gold nuggets, gambling at the Reno Casino and a cruise on Lake Tahoe plus other events, I must admit that I was attracted by ‘wine tasting at the Napa Valley Vineyards’.

There was another trip advertised as the *Spanish Annual Detecting Venture* and organised by Chris Martin. For £210 you could spend seven nights full board in a Salou Hotel. Detecting was on five miles of beach described as, ‘searching is good along its whole length and possible to detect in the sea up to 100 meters offshore’.

Field Tests

Rather unusual to have two field tests in the same magazine. In this issue *Old Yellowbelly* was field-testing the C-Scope CS5MX – the



first time he had ‘got in on the act’. He told us that he’d had a fair degree of success with an assortment of C-Scope machines and he especially wanted to test the latest. His conclusion is that it was ‘a class machine’ and at £399 was ‘good value for money’.

John Castle of Joan Allen Electronics reviewed the Fisher CZ-20. In a comprehensive account, he ends by saying, ‘It has been said, with truth, that there is no one detector that can do it all. I can now say, with equal truth, that the Fisher comes closer to it than anything else I have ever used’. There follows in a larger emboldened typeface, the information that the machine is available from Joan Allen.

A flying start

There isn’t space to talk at length about Terry Bromley’s introduction to the hobby, but there is a blast from the past – a copy of his pipe-finder licence!

New Viking Voyagers Exhibition

The National Maritime Museum Cornwall in Falmouth is bringing the Vikings to Cornwall in a new major exhibition called *Viking Voyagers*, opening on 20 March 2015. The new exhibition, featuring nationally and internationally historically significant artefacts, explores what is behind the popular myth of the bloodthirsty raiders, what it meant to become a Viking and shows how their mastery of maritime technology was the secret to their success.

Ships and boats were vital to Viking expansion; they explored and colonised, were invaders and migrants and the seas and rivers were the highways and byways to amassing huge wealth and power through raiding and trading.

Their power was built on their knowledge of boatbuilding and their seafaring skills, enabling them to sail across the Atlantic’s icy waters to Newfoundland and Iceland, down to the warm Mediterranean to Istanbul and as far East along the river Volga as Ukraine and Russia.

Visions of horned helmets, unkempt beards and fearsome raiding fighters carried by longships that were dragon headed war beasts come to mind when thinking of Vikings.

However, this new show dispels the myth and reveals that just like us they also wore jewellery, combed their hair and many were entrepreneurs, using smaller boats and ships to do business and seek new opportunities far from their Scandinavian homelands.

These archaeological finds, which are over 1000 years old, include weaponry, jewellery, household implements, slave chains and coins, richly showing the global reach of the

Vikings and their ships.

The two year exhibition, funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a number of generous trusts and foundations, aims to show how the Vikings were a maritime culture, not an ethnic group but something you became when you wanted an adventure.

Viking Voyagers runs from 20 March 2015 to 22 February 2017. www.nmmc.co.uk



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Date	Event	Location/Organisation	Time	More Information
Now-22 Feb	Exhibition: Death of a hero	NT: Chartwell		Tel: 01732 868381 or chartwell@nationaltrust.org.uk
Now until Apr 19	Exhibition: Ancient lives new discoveries	British Museum		Members free. Book online. www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on
Now- 23 Mar	Course: Anglo-Norman London	Museum of London	6.30pm- 8.30pm	www.museumoflondon.org.uk
Now- 10 May	Exhibition: Roman Empire: Power and People	The MacManus, Dundee		www.mcmanus.co.uk
5 Feb	PAS Finds Afternoon	Weston Park Museum, Sheffield	1pm-3pm	adownes@wyjs.org.uk
7 Feb	Tour: Shoreditch's Saucyside	Museum of London	2pm-3.30pm	£7.88, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
10 Feb	Gallery Talk: French treasures from the Renaissance to the Napoleonic era	British Museum, Room 46	1.15pm-2pm	Free. www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on
11 Feb	British coins	Dix Noonan Webb, London		Tel: 020 7016 1700
12-13 Feb	Coins and Antiquities	TimeLine Auctions. London		Tel: 01277 815121
12 Feb	PAS Finds Afternoon	Wakefield Museum	1pm-3pm	adownes@wyjs.org.uk
12 Feb	Antique & Modern Jewellery Auction	Fellows	11am	www.fellows.co.uk 0121 212 2131
16 Feb	Coins and Medals Auction	Fellows	11am	www.fellows.co.uk 0121 212 2131
20 Feb	Lecture: Curator's introduction to Ancient lives, new discoveries	British Museum, BP Lecture Theatre	1.10pm- 2.30pm	Free, booking essential www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on
20 Feb	Gallery Talk: A metallurgical tour through the ancient world	British Museum, Room 68	1.15pm-2pm	Free. www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on
20 Feb	Lecture: Curator's introduction to Ancient lives, new discoveries	British Museum, BP Lecture Theatre	1.30pm- 2.30pm	Free. Booking essential. www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on
20 Feb	Tour: Roman Fort Gate	Museum of London	2pm-2.30pm	£2.65, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
21 Feb	Tour: Shoreditch's Saucyside	Museum of London	2pm-3.30pm	£7.88, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
26 Feb	PAS Finds Afternoon	Doncster Museum	11am-3pm	adownes@wyjs.org.uk
5 Mar	PAS Finds Afternoon	Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley	1pm-3pm	adownes@wyjs.org.uk
7 Mar	Roman holiday	Museum of London	2pm-3.30pm	£7.88, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
11 Mar	Roman holiday	Museum of London	2pm-3.30pm	£7.88, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
12 Mar	PAS Finds Afternoon	Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham	1pm-3pm	adownes@wyjs.org.uk
19 Mar	PAS Finds Afternoon	Bankfield Museum, Halifax	1pm-3pm	adownes@wyjs.org.uk
20 Mar	Tour: Roman Fort Gate	Museum of London	2pm-2.30pm	£2.65, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
22 Mar	19th Rotary Spring Rally	North of Swindon	10am	For more details see advert on page 64
25 Mar	Antiques and coins	Hartley's of Ilkley		Tel: 01943 816363
25-26 Mar	Ancient, British and foreign coins	Spink & Son, London		Tel: 020 7563 4000
26 Mar	PAS Finds Afternoon	Tolson Museum, Huddersfield	1pm-3pm	adownes@wyjs.org.uk
4 Apr	Paupers, pilgrims and priories	Museum of London	2pm-3.30pm	£7.88, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
14&16 Apr	Antiquities only	Bonhams, London		Tel: 020 7468 8226
17 Apr	Tour: Roman Fort Gate	Museum of London	2pm-2.30pm	£2.65, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
18 Apr	Paupers, pilgrims and priories	Museum of London	2pm-3.30pm	£7.88, book in advance. www.museumoflondon.org.uk
20 Apr	Course: Everyday life in Medieval London	Museum of London	6.30pm- 8.30pm	Book in advance. Tel. 020 7631 6316 for pricing.
20 Apr- 6 Jul	Course: Everyday Life in Medieval London	Museum of London	6.30pm- 8.30pm	www.museumoflondon.org.uk

If you would like your event included in this column please email us on: info@thesearcher.co.uk
or write to: 17 Down Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2PX
For more events see www.thesearcher.co.uk/events

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11 February 2015



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Images courtesy of Jack Wallace unless otherwise stated

"A shiny disc reflected the light"

The Lenborough Hoard

By John Winter



How many times have you intended to go detecting but cried off at the last minute? I know several people living in Buckinghamshire, including myself, who now regret not making the effort to attend the last Christmas dig organised by Peter Welch of Weekend Wanderers. The venue was just down the road near Lenborough.

When some of us reach a certain age we prefer the warmth of our bed and go out of our way to avoid exertion. It's called laziness! If that describes you then you'd have missed what Peter exuberantly exclaimed, "the find is unequalled and the best in the club's 25-year history! It just shows that there is still stuff in the ground."

The discovery – for those of you who have been in hibernation and missed the frenzy of excitement in the world's media – was a hoard of 5251 silver coins from the reigns of Ethelred the Unready (978-1016) and Cnut, also known as Canute (1016-1035).

Sharing expenses

The energetic (and dedicated) 59-year-old silver-haired detectorist

Paul Coleman, travelled all the way from Southampton to attend the dig, and was the lucky guy who found the hoard. Contrary to many reports initiated in the tabloid press and perpetuated by lazy journalists, Paul has been detecting for 40 years and isn't unemployed or destitute.

Phrases like 'amateur treasure hunter finds £1million hoard ... after a whip-round for petrol to get there,' is the media language that makes a better story and sells newspapers. It's the 'rags to riches scenario' and easy to see how it came about. The media always takes a keen interest in what a find is worth and keen to state a monetary value.

Paul has attended several Weekend Wanderers Christmas digs and found nothing. Although the 2014 dig

attracted him he wasn't really keen on travelling the 200 mile round trip. Would the expense be worth the journey?

When 29 year-old son Liam and friend Jack Wallace said that they would accompany him and split the cost, then it seemed like a viable situation. It's what detectorists do.

Paul had time to do a little research and could see that some of the site was 'new' to the club and hadn't been disturbed too much. He was excited. On the journey to rural Bucks he mused that it would be nice to come home with a Roman brooch or a few coins. Little did he know that what he'd eventually find would surpass even his wildest dreams – finding one of the largest hoards of Anglo Saxon coins ever found in Britain.



Paul's sixth sense

On arrival the guys saw that there were many fields to explore. Peter had arranged details of the area, including a large aerial map for all detectorists to study.

Paul told me that with experience you develop a kind of sixth sense, recognition of the signs in a field, and a kind of intuition that draws you to the best place to look. "It's a good feeling!"

Initially, the first field they chose didn't look promising and positive signals were few. After an hour there wasn't much to show worth talking about, apart from a lone musket ball. They agreed to try another field, but then a funny thing happened.

"Because of interference between our machines," said Paul, "I asked, in the jokey way that detectorists do, for Jack to move over. I paraphrase his answer, but the gist was that his detector was fine and I should be the one to move! I walked further to the left ... and immediately got a signal ... that

was the one! By this time Jack and my son Liam had made it to the gate and disappeared into the next field."

Paul started to dig. As he went deeper he was beginning to think that what he had detected was a large lump of iron, perhaps a manhole cover; it was a wide signal! He was beginning to have doubts and called over two fellow detectorists walking nearby. "Can you check this signal for me?"

Worth carrying on

One guy said that it was a good signal and worth carrying on. The other wasn't too sure. Paul thanked them ... and continued to dig.

"I'm getting positive signals here." He exclaimed in justification. "In for a penny, in for a pound! Would you have given up?"

Because the diameter of the hole was so small, the spade wasn't much use. Paul resorted to using his hands and compacting the soil before removal. When he extracted

a small piece of lead the thought passed through his mind that he dug all that way down only to retrieve trash that the farmer had buried.

Then he happened to look back into the hole and was staggered to see a shiny disc reflecting the light from above ... he couldn't see anything else. As Paul bent to retrieve the coin – for that's what it was – he could see a green shape behind it.

"I thought it might be a smashed container and knew then that I had stumbled upon something large. I didn't touch it again and contacted the organiser Peter Welch and Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) Rosalind Tyrrell, who was on the site. She said that I had done the right thing and immediately taped off the area, declared it an archaeological site and directed proceedings."

When I talked afterwards to Ros she described the coins as being wrapped in a lead parcel covered in clay. At the time they had described it as a 'pasty'.





Paul was carefully supervised and happy to do the heavy work, but Ros Tyrell the FLO was engaged in the final removal. It proved to be a long process involving painstaking work.



"Each item was recorded, photographed in situ and excavated thoroughly and carefully. If you viewed the video made on YouTube of the removal it looks as though we spent about two minutes on the task," said Ros. "That wasn't the case. Luckily the hoard was found at the beginning of the session and we just got it out of the ground as the light was fading. The excavation had taken most of the day."

What happened next

As dusk approached, the area was checked again. Nothing was found and the hole filled in. The coins, resplendent in smaller plastic bags carried in a Sainsbury's Supermarket carrier, were taken to show the farmer. By this time it was dark.

After waiting a long 40 minutes or so, he eventually appeared. Newspapers were laid on the kitchen table and a count was taken. The coins looked uncirculated as if they had just come from the mint. Just over two hours later the coins were handed over into the safekeeping of the FLO.

Paul insisted I tell you that the final total was 5251 and a half. I now have news for him. When the conservator at the British Museum was checking the remains of the lead 'parcel' in the laboratory she found more coins, so it looks as though the final number is destined to change slightly!

A highlight

Paul Coleman shirks detecting forums and Facebook and just gets on with the business of detecting and is somewhat over-awed by

all the attention from newspapers, radio and television news channels all around the world. He'd just finished an interview with Japanese radio programme when I talked with him.

I smiled when he told me that the highlight of all this notoriety so far had been his live broadcast with Sky News. He was fitted with an earpiece so he could hear the presenter and take heed of the producer who told him what was going to happen next.

The first item on the news was about the boat people crisis in the Mediterranean, the second was Paul and the next was about Steven Gerrard announcing that he was leaving Liverpool FC. "I come from Liverpool originally and am a supporter," said Paul. "It tickled me to think that my find was more important than Gerrard's departure from Anfield!"

Social media

I'm not sure that with finds as important as this that social media is a good thing or not. Just think if videos of the Staffordshire Hoard had been posted on YouTube almost before the finder had left the field. Maybe the news is in the public domain all too soon. As yet nothing much is known about the hoard or what these coins were doing hidden in a Buckinghamshire field. It'll be interesting to see what explanations the specialists come up with. Could this be the accumulated wealth of a Viking, or is it something else? No doubt we will find out soon.



I admire Rosalind Tyrell who was contacted by one newspaper about her views when she was travelling to another engagement on New Year's Day. Her quote helped feed the media machine and contributed to that 'feel good factor' at the beginning of the year. Part of what she said was, "The [coins] we cleaned dated from the time of Ethelred and Cnut. There was a mint in Buckingham at that time so the find is possibly connected to that, or indeed the Saxon burgh (burgh – fortification) also in the area." Quick thinking on the FLO's part!

Truly amazing find

Paul's find is truly amazing and we are so lucky to have all this history buried around us. Dig organiser Peter Welch commented, "Paul's an experienced detectorist, yet he nearly missed this target. This just shows that we need to check everything. We've all done it and walked away. When you get a signal like that, then you must investigate further. His remarkable story must inspire everybody! The rest of the farm was relatively quiet"

Paul has made the find of a lifetime and deserves our congratulations, and we thank him for (undoubtedly) increasing our knowledge of the Anglo Saxons. I can't wait to see the cleaned hoard in presentation and hear more details from the experts.





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22,000 pieces of history

Finding the Seaton Down Hoard

By Laurence Egerton



It was a very ordinary Saturday morning in November of last year. I normally get out with my detector a couple of times a week and am very fortunate in my wife, Mandy, who encourages me to enjoy the hobby. In my detector down-time, I spend a good bit of time reading up on local history, using old maps wherever I can, trawling Google Earth and sniffing out local pathways or tracks.

I set off to meet with Tony, a fellow detectorist who I'd known for a few months, to try out one of the large fields for which we both had permission. The site is part of a very large estate, who have carefully granted and monitored a very limited number of detecting licences. The estate is split up into a fair number of tenant farms and wherever and whenever I can, I chat to the farmers, who often have little snippets of information about how their land has been worked, including casual finds, in their own, their parents' or even their grandparents' time.

We parked up and used my car to get us both and our kit to the field. As you do, we set up and split off to cover our own chosen spots of this very large area. I had with me my trusty XP Deus, this time with its 9" coil fitted. I usually have an 11" coil attached, but as I'd been working in amongst stubble lately, the smaller version had been more suitable for getting me in between the rows of stalks. I had completed the simple process of downloading to its upgraded 3.2 version and I was using a customised programme of my own.

On the field, I fancied a slight rise with a couple of associated shallow

dips and headed for those. It was now late morning and the field had recently been ploughed, harrowed and rolled. It is quite dense, clay-

based soil, with plenty of stone and flint to keep you warm when you dig, but pretty well ideal conditions. We'd had some occasional rain and so



conductivity was likely to be improved.

I searched happily but unproductively for a good half an hour, constantly scanning the field for promising features to explore and wondering whether the next signal might produce a cherished hammered or some other interesting glimpse into history.

Eyes-only searching is going on, too, as this is a collection of fields worked by early man with shaped flints.

I do 'low and slow' searching, not to tramlines but staying aware of where I have been and where I'm going. I then had a good signal – crisp and clear, two-way and with no fuzziness at its edges – and it was an obvious one to dig. To my delight a decent Roman bronze popped out from about 2-3" down. It was in pretty fair condition, certainly unusually good for this notoriously bronze-damaging area, although I couldn't make out its emperor or reign. I tucked it happily and safely away with that contented "I can now go home with something" feeling.

I stood up and carried on and, blow me, within three or four feet, a very similar signal and a second Roman much the same as the first! Now Roman stuff just doesn't turn up in these parts at the drop of a helmet and so I started to concentrate hard and pay closer attention to what I was doing. I made a mental grid of the area where the two coins had been, determined to work it thoroughly.

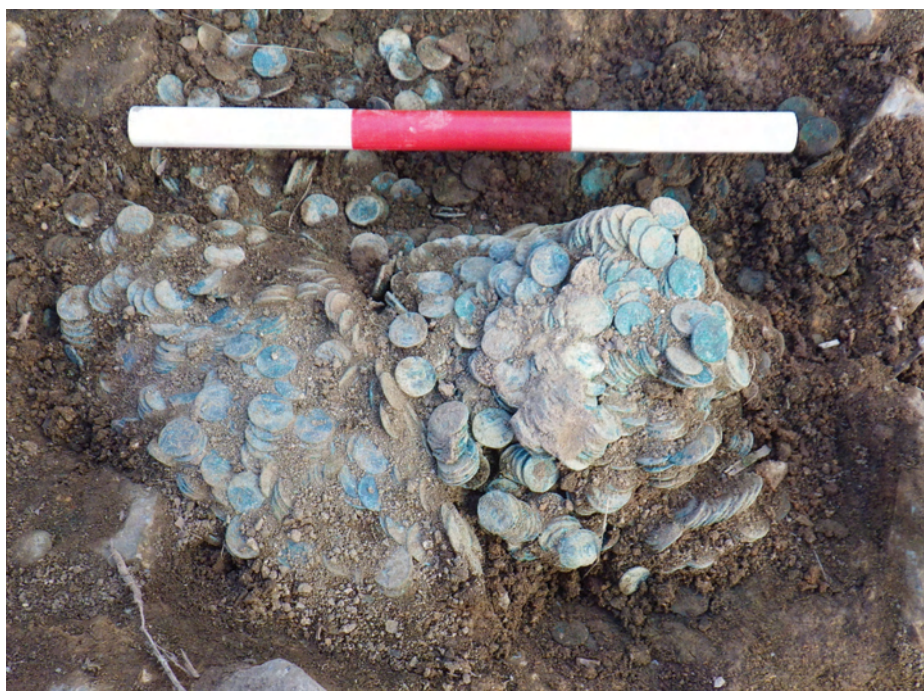
A third signal came but this time it was different. It had much more 'ferrous' about it and crackled at its edges, although still two-way. Buoyed up by my 'two in the bag' glow, I decided to give it a go. I dropped the machine down into 4 kHz to help sniff out any iron and stamped my pointed spade into the surface. Where conditions allow, I tend to dig a largish hole and never work with a probe. So I took a foot-square spit out and put the machine over it again. It was still 'irony' but with something more diggable there as well.

At 12" it was a disappointing result – a piece of solid 'agricultural' iron and I put it to one side by the hole, for later ditching. I swung the Deus over the hole, just to be sure, and was surprised to hear a signal still there. A third spadeful of spoil and ... another piece of iron. Grrrgh! I put that piece next to its twin. The hole looked as empty as could be but still the signal persisted. I will never know what hidden voice told me to keep on but I thrust the spade in for a fourth time and it was suddenly the ancient equivalent of getting a jackpot on a fruit-machine. I had dislodged, literally, a spadeful of coins. I stood upright, looking down at the hole in something close to shock.

Now, I knew *what* I had to do, but this was a first and I certainly didn't know *how* to do it. I knew that I needed help. Unhelpfully, the battery on my mobile was almost out and so I knew that I had limited scope for calling back-up. Mandy at home was my first thought and, thank goodness, she picked up. "I've found a hoard", I managed to croak



The millionth object recorded on the PAS database: This image shows both sides of a copper alloy coin struck by Constantine I to celebrate his new city of Constantinople (Istanbul), struck at Lyon in AD 332, found in the Seaton Hoard (Devon). © The Trustees of the British Museum



The Seaton Hoard in the process of excavation. © AC archaeology



Detail of copper alloy coins from the Seaton Hoard in the soil block. © The Trustees of the British Museum

and asked her to get contact details from my lap-top and start making a call or two before getting herself down here with a video recorder and still camera.

Though this session was a personal outing, I am a member of the East Devon MDC and Mandy very sensibly, after e-mailing Danielle Wootton, our County FLO, called our Treasurer, Julia Spruntulis and Mark Hanley, our Chairman, to tap into their wisdom and directories, searching for someone – anyone – to whom to report the discovery. It was now, you'll recall, Saturday lunch-time ...

About 45 minutes later, Mandy drove to the site with the camera and she tells of a surreal moment where, on entering the field, she could see the far distant figure of Tony detecting but no sign of me. I always wear army-surplus camouflage kit and apparently it worked perfectly, rendering me quite invisible to an anxious and frustrated wife. But I was ready – more than ready – for her arrival and seeing her standing perplexed, waved the Deus aloft and managed to catch her eye.

She found her way across to me – bearing hot soup, God bless her (I focus so much on detecting that I seldom have food or drink with me) and started filming. Mandy continued trying useful numbers in between video sessions. I was on my knees, pulling out handfuls of coins, feeling them cascading seemingly endlessly through my gloved fingers.

Mandy then found a tipping-point – a moment when we stopped feeling freezing cold and wondering what to do next and started to get a sense of direction. That tipping-point was a phone-call with Clare James – the Estates Surveyor, who turned out to be the most amazingly competent, communicative and effective project manager over the coming days. She had managed to have a conversation with local archaeologists and her clear message to us was: "Collect up the loose coins and fill the hole back in until we can get it officially dug". Another call came from Bill Horner the Devon County Archaeologist who confirmed this instruction.

What a relief – we suddenly knew what to do! I scrambled together all the visible coins, Mandy and Tony helped me to backfill the hole and I paced out its location to make a 'treasure map'. By the way, I must confess, to my lasting astonishment, that I then noticed that the two lumps of 'agricultural iron' which I had nonchalantly set aside were encrusted with clay but each held, within its crust, a good dozen coins, pretty well invisible to the casual eye. The iron pieces are now officially part of the hoard and have been identified as Roman iron ingots.

With the hole back-filled, but still obviously holding the promise of more, we trekked back to the cars. I carried my detector and kit while Mandy struggled with a plastic container, rescued from the boot of my car as a makeshift hold-all, and something like six kilos of recovered coins. Once in the car, I dropped Tony off at his



Constantine – Trier – Gloria Exercitus



Constantinopolis – Lyon



Pop Romanus – Constantinople



Urbs Roma – Arles

Copper alloy coins struck in the AD 330s from the Seaton Hoard. © The Trustees of the British Museum

own vehicle and I then headed for Clare James's home to show her what I had recovered and to get some sense back into our suddenly upside-down lives.

Clare was amazing. She is a young Mum and her two kids were there, up to their necks in play-dough, while we tried to work out next steps. One of them calls me 'Uncle Laurence' (or sometimes even 'Auntie Laurence' – but that's another story ...) and was excitedly declaring that I had found "real treasure". Out of the mouths of babes, that made us realise that this was news that would soon be out. And so, security became the main focus. We decided that I was 'security' and would sleep overnight at the site in my car. Clare immediately let the local farmers know to expect my presence and the local police were informed of the situation.

I went home and with Mandy, cobbled together some stuff for a long cold night (or actually three of them, as it turned out) and drove back to the site as it grew to November dusk. It was a fitful, uncomfortable experience, the glow of the discovery now

overshadowed with 'what if's'. The anxious mood was not helped by a sudden rap on my car window and the looming presence in the half light of a man with a rifle or shot-gun crooked under his arm. He was one of the local farmers – out rough-shooting – who had picked up on Clare's warning of my being there. Sleep did not come easily after that.

Sunday dawned and a useful mid-morning meeting with the landowner, Clare and with the now reassuring presence of Bill Horner, and Danielle the FLO. Mandy and Tony had also come along to spectate. Nothing would happen that day but there was interesting discussion in the margins about how an unexpected dig might be financed, something which, as a layman, I had never stopped to consider. Fortunately Bill Horner's department was able to fund this excavation and this was fantastic news.

Another cold night trying to get my 6.2' frame into angles which avoided otherwise useful car features (something which I hadn't enjoyed for number of years now) and then Monday was with us and this time a full day

of archaeology. A three metre square excavation, to expose the full extent of the hoard, carefully gridded and layers of coins painstakingly extracted and logged by position within the grid. All filmed by Mandy and there for posterity. One more red-eyed night's vigil and two more days of precise excavation, then it was all done and dusted.

In late February, I was privileged to be invited, with the landowners and Clare, to the British Museum to witness 'work in progress' as dedicated staff cleaned and conserved what cruised past a total of 22,000 coins and counting ...

On 12 September this year, I was summoned to the inquest where the Seaton Down Hoard was, after the Coroner's consideration of written, oral and video and still camera evidence, formally declared Treasure and referred to a December sitting of the Treasure Valuation Committee. I really don't care about that. As I have said to so many lenses and microphones over the past weeks, for me it is only about "22,000 pieces of history."

Analysing the Seaton Down Hoard

By Vincent Drost, The British Museum, Project Curator

The Seaton Down hoard consists of at least 22,000 coins. An exact figure can't be provided as some of the coins remain as two small concreted blocks (two separate money bags within the main deposit?). Fragments of organic fabric suggests that the coins were bagged in flexible container(s) such as cloth or leather bags.

The hoard is remarkable for its size. It is among the largest coin hoards of the 4th century unearthed in Britain. A few other giant hoards of the same type, such as Nether Compton, Dorset (22,703 coins) or Bishopswood (17,548 coins) were reported. But Seaton Down is the first one that can be fully recorded, thanks to Laurence's compliance with the Treasure Act and to the support of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). The hoard also has a symbolic importance as it allowed the PAS to pass the threshold of one million objects recorded on <http://finds.org.uk>.

The hoard consists mainly of the very common copper alloy coins (called nummi) struck in the AD 330's, which represent 99% of the total. Coins are in the name of Constantine the Great and his family: his sons Constantine II, Constantius II and Constans, his nephew Delmatius, his mother Helena and his stepmother Theodora. The commemorative issues in honor of the cities of Rome and Constantinople (newly founded by Constantine) are also numerous. Specimens struck before AD 330 are very few (less than 1%). Those earlier and heavier coins were barely available by the

time of the hoarding.

The earliest coins in the hoard are a handful of radiates dating to the late AD 260's/early 270's. The latest ones are three nummi bearing the 'Two Victories' reverse type struck during the joint reign of Constantius II and his younger brother Constans. The dating of those issues is an important matter to establish the terminal date of the hoard. According to some scholars, this type was struck in AD 347-8 whereas others lean towards an earlier start in AD 341.

Reasons for the concealment of the hoard are difficult to ascertain. The deposit was probably planned for the long term as recovering those approximately 68kg of coins wouldn't have been an easy task. Could it represent private savings, commercial gains or even a military pay chest? Did the owner(s) have to hide the money faced with a threat? We'll never get definitive answers to those questions but one could state that the AD 340's marked the beginning of troubles in Roman Britain after the economic peak of prosperity under the rule of Constantine the Great (AD 306-337). About AD 343, Constantine's youngest son Constans had to pay an unexpected visit to Britain, the last visit by a legitimate Roman emperor to the island. His motives in doing so are uncertain but the emperor might have had to fight the Picts on the Northern frontier or to calm down the discontented local elite after Constans' troops had killed Constantine II – who had been in charge of

Britain – in AD 340.

Despite its huge size, the value of the Seaton Down hoard would have been modest: those 22,000 nummi are equivalent to a handful of gold coins (solidi). As a rough estimate, it might have allowed to pay for a worker's salary or to provide a soldier's food for one or two years. In the mid-4th century, people needed a considerable amount of small copper alloy coins to buy anything significant.

Nevertheless, the hoard provides important information on the coin use and coin supply in Roman Britain in the mid-4th century. Britain didn't have a mint at disposal since the closure of the London mint around AD 325. Therefore, coins were mainly supplied by the Gallic mints. Approximately 60% of the coins in the hoard were struck in Trier (Germany) and 30% come from Lyon and Arles (France). The huge quantities sent to Britain didn't prevent shortage though and copies had to be produced locally. Several hundreds of those contemporary copies got into the hoard.

The hoard was fully catalogued at the British Museum and its extensive analysis will provide numismatists with important data. The public had a chance to enjoy the hoard on the occasion of a temporary display at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter. RAMM is now fundraising to try to purchase the hoard (<https://www.nationalfundingscheme.org/RAM002>).

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Uncle Albert

By Peter D. Spencer

As 2014 was the centenary of its start, the First World War has been regularly in the news. A war that many thought would be over by Christmas of 1914 dragged on for years and cost the lives of millions of soldiers. In total, over six million men served in the British armed forces. Today few of us will not have had a close or distant relative who fought in what (at the time) was described as the war to end all wars.

I know of two uncles who were members of the West Yorkshire Regiment during the First World War. In all probability there would be others serving in the forces but I can only be certain about these two. The first was Uncle Frank (Wilby), who died when I was about ten years old. He was one of the lucky ones, who signed up early on and was still alive when the war ended. The luck was to do with his position in the army, for he was an officer's batman; whether it was the same officer or different ones during the conflict I don't know. Uncle Frank would have had to see to the needs of his officer but I vaguely remember him telling me that this didn't include 'going over the top'. Therefore, he held a position that others in his regiment must have been envious of. He was a flamboyant man, popular in the family and always with interesting tales to tell. He'd travelled widely before the war and one tale I remember was of the time he had bought a diamond whilst in South Africa not long after the start of the 20th century.

Uncle Albert (Clark) died when I was about 13 years old. He married my mother's sister, Annie, but I haven't managed to establish exactly when. I described Uncle Frank as flamboyant but Uncle Albert was just the opposite. He was a very quiet man and would speak only when spoken to. The old photograph of him (**Figure 1**) is dated 1920 on the back with "Mr A. Clark" written in



Figure 1

black ink.

When I was a child we lived at Birstall, a village about five miles away from Leeds. Over the years Leeds has expanded and in doing so has spread its influence over many other places, including Birstall. However, when I lived there, despite being close to Leeds, it was a different world. It was part of what was known as the 'heavy woollen

district', an area in which a great number of textile mills employed thousands of people. Even the accent was different. In Birstall most people spoke with a broad Yorkshire accent, which could be unintelligible to outsiders. I was eleven when I moved with my parents to Leeds and at my new school some of the teachers and pupils couldn't understand what I was saying. Broad Yorkshire is rarely heard today but a Leeds accent crops up many miles away from the city.

Every Wednesday my Auntie Annie and Uncle Albert would come to our house for tea. Tea was always the same: boiled eggs all round and then a cake stand of 'sweet stuff' to finish off with. If I went to the seaside with my parents I'd always buy something from the numerous joke shops. I look back on this with a shudder of guilt, for when buying jokes I often had Uncle Albert in mind. I was young, and not knowing any better, saw him as an easy target. I remember buying a rubber egg and when no-one was looking I swapped it for the real one in Uncle Albert's egg cup. The poor man poked and prodded at the 'egg'; I thought it was hilarious until my mother spotted what I'd done and gave me a telling off. On another occasion I bought a very realistic looking piece of jam roll, which was made of rolled sponge with the jam painted inside the coils. Uncle Albert liked jam roll, so he ended up with the fake between his teeth; this got me another telling off.

I can't say exactly when but some time after Uncle Albert died I was given his War and Victory medals and I've illustrated both of these awards as **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**. I asked my mother and Auntie Annie what Albert had done during First World War but they both said he would never talk about it. I've heard the same thing said about others who were in one of the armed services, the chief reason being that they would prefer to forget some of the terrible scenes they had witnessed.

Throughout my childhood Uncle Albert was often ill. My mother told me that he had been gassed during the war and this had left him with a permanently bad chest. I remember visiting on a few occasions and seeing him as he lay in bed. When he died a doctor told Auntie Annie that her husband's lungs were so badly damaged that he should have been receiving a war pension.

As I said at the beginning, the First World War has been much in the news and this brought back memories of Uncle Albert, so I asked my wife to do some research. All I knew was that he had been a private in the West Yorkshire Regiment and this information came from his two medals. I didn't know if he had volunteered or if he was called up, when conscription started in July of 1916.

It turned out that Albert Clark volunteered for military service in 1916 and in February of that year he became number 25332 in the West Yorkshire Regiment. After



Figure 2



Figure 3

undergoing training he was drafted overseas and served with his unit on the Western Front. When my wife said the words 'Western Front' a cold shiver went down my back, for to me this could only mean the front line. Worse was to come. Albert was in action in the Ypres (English soldiers often referred to this place as 'Wipers') sector, at Arras, and on the Somme, where he was wounded. Does being gassed count as being wounded? Or, did he receive another type of wound? On recovery he took part in the advance of 1918; this, I assume, was the final push that led to the German army suing for peace. Private Clark was finally demobilised in May of 1919, so he served for a further six months after the war had ended.

The sights Uncle Albert would have seen do not bear thinking about. On the first day of the Somme there were 60,000 men of the British army dead or wounded. This was the third battle that he had been engaged in and yet he had to endure more active service before the war ended.

Had it not been for Uncle Albert and others like him the world would be a very different place today. The sad thing is that there are still many smaller conflicts taking place in different parts of the world. Even after all the blood that has been spilt in wars there are still those who wish to spill more, often for reasons that most of us can't understand. It would seem that some human beings will always find a reason or excuse for taking up arms against others.

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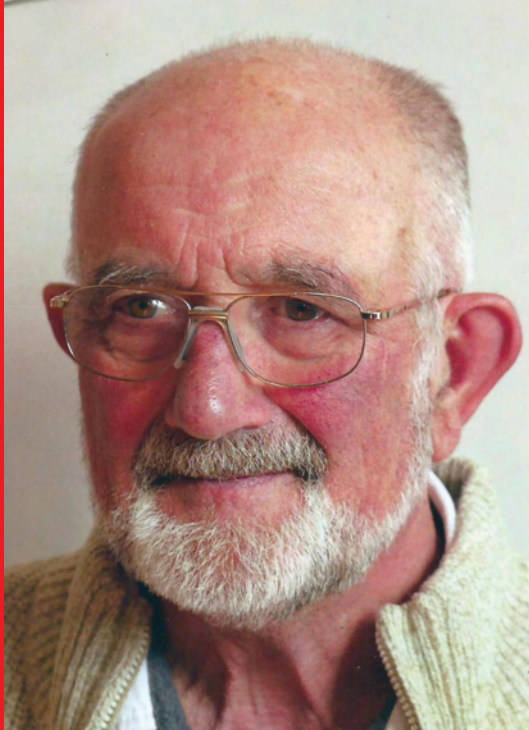
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71 year-old Jim Druett, a member of Camberley and Bagshott and also Farnham and District MDC's, has Parkinson's. Jim isn't computer savvy, so his wife Sylvia has transcribed his words ...

"I was a coach driver for 37 years, and the nature of the job is that you take people wherever they are going, to house or garden, or the theatre etcetera. Wherever passengers go it always entails a lot of time for me waiting around for them to return.

Usually I left the vehicle in a designated coach park if I was lucky, but if not, wherever it was safe. Then I would take out my flask and sandwiches, read the paper and then if the day was stretching out to be a long one I would polish one side of the coach or clean all the windows on the inside, or perhaps vacuum the seats.

One evening on my return, my wife said, "my goodness, why don't you just relax". But I never could; I had to keep busy.

A few days after this conversation, she presented me with something to keep me busy ... a small Tandy metal detector! I laughed and said she must be joking. Anyway I duly took it with me the next time I knew I was going to be stuck somewhere with nothing to do. In a car park I found numerous £1 coins - that paid for my coffee in the local café. I was hooked!

Ten years ago I was diagnosed with Parkinson's, and was so grateful that I had a hobby that I could still do. I have progressed through different detectors ranging from Whites to Minelab and have now settled with a Garrett, which seems to be the right weight for me to manage.

When I was 70 my driving licence was revoked and,

as you may imagine, I was really heartbroken to lose my independence. Thankfully I have made some very good friends through the clubs and they will always take me to the different digs, and make sure I do not have too far to walk to the field.

I've been very lucky with what I've unearthed over the years and show some pictures of my recent finds that have now gone to Winchester for identification."

Thank you Sylvia and Jim for the inspirational story. It's always good to hear from other people how the hobby has helped them in some little way. Also, for anyone reading this, in knowing you're not the only one who has a symptom. The Parkinson's support and research charity can be contacted at www.parkinsons.org.uk



A few of Jim's finds

Focus: Detecting the Iron Age

By Mike Sinclair

The Iron Age is an arbitrary period describing a time frame covering roughly 2,000 years, from about 1300 BCE to 700 CE, depending on where in the world one is applying the term. In Britain it is generally applied to the period from around 800 BCE to 100 CE, which is roughly from when the use of smelted iron implements appeared to the absorption into Roman culture of southern British tribes. The term is simply a convenient label which we can attach to certain cultural markers and it does not denote any particular significance in the use of the metal itself. It is probable that the ethnicity of the population remained little changed throughout the phase.

No indigenous written account of the British Iron Age survives, for writing was not considered necessary for society to function. Unlike the Middle East, where people were busily writing down the names of rulers, recording battles and giving accounts of everyday transactions, all we have

are a few scant details that survive as later transcriptions of the writings of classical geographers, historians and adventurers. Thus we know nothing of the names of the entrepreneurs, artists, artisans, poets, philosophers and astronomers who were clearly a part of the complex and competent

society that flourished in the period that we know as the British Iron Age. Only at the very end of the period do we learn the names of a few Iron Age rulers through the writings of Classical authors and coins with legends, of which many are enigmatic. The Europe of today is a



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



patchwork of squabbling tribes speaking a babble of different languages, so we might expect that Iron Age Europe was even more dysfunctional.

There certainly seems to have been regional differences in material culture and clear evidence of internecine warfare, but there also seems to have been a remarkable uniformity. Archaeological finds point to shared cultural and trade links and place-name and literary evidence suggests that in Britain, a common language may have been understood from John O'Groats to Land's End. This was gradually replaced by Irish in the north-west and English throughout much of the remainder, but British still survives, with some revival, in the forms of Welsh and Cornish. The only contemporary written accounts of the British Iron Age come from the very end of the era and these cannot be taken as reliable. The geographers and historians were mostly using the reports of others, possibly at several removes and writers such as Caesar wrote for political effect, not historical accuracy.

All of which leaves material evidence from excavation and chance discovery. Fifty years ago Iron Age Britain was pretty straightforward. We had a map with the names of tribes upon it and a few identifiable ceramic and metal phases, all of which formed a set of pigeon holes into which everything neatly fitted.

Now and due in part to metal detecting, we have a vastly more complex picture with many more questions than answers. Although metal artefacts are but a small part of the big picture it is they, particularly coins, that have opened up the debate and the following are a selection of the different types of Iron Age metallic find commonly

encountered in the soil of Britain.

Brooches constitute an important field of study and are broadly classifiable into several groups with many subdivisions and variations. It is probable that many of the earlier ones were imported from the mainland as well as being produced in Britain itself. One early example is **Fig 1**, found in Norfolk and dating from the 6th to 3rd centuries BCE. Although lacking its pin and catchplate, the body form is typical of these rare early brooches. Another type occasionally encountered dates from around the 4th to 3rd centuries BCE and is classified as La Tène I.

These bow brooches are typified by a back-turned catchplate, such as **Fig 2** and **Fig 3**. Both lack their springs and pins and **Fig 3** has lost part of the catchplate, but it is important to be able to identify them even when the more diagnostic features are missing. Perhaps the most widespread of Late Iron Age brooches are a group with wide variation and classified as La Tène 3. These typically have an exposed spring and pin locating into a simple flanged catchplate. Some examples I have found are **Fig 4**, which had an openwork catchplate, **Fig 5** which has a boss and flared body and **Fig 6**, which has a knob but more parallel body. It is not uncommon to find brooches in somewhat bent condition and it is quite probable that in many cases this was deliberate damage, the brooch itself being used as a votive deposit. One such example, **Fig 7**, seems to have been bent well beyond the realms of accidental damage.

Coins are certainly one of the most important type of late Iron Age artefact, for they give us an insight into a whole wealth of artistic interpretation and, for the first time,

inscriptions that hint at the names of rulers and places and possibly even tribes. Older books that deal with Iron Age coins tend to refer to them as 'celtic', a term that nowadays is rarely used because it is a relatively modern construct with a romantic rather than historical basis. However, in linguistic and artistic terms the peoples of western Europe had a distinct common culture and 'celtic' remains a useful label to attach to certain qualifying categories. Even Britain itself is a misnomer, the result of a Roman mistranslation of Ynys Prydain, the native British name for the island.

There are some coins that can be identified to known tribes with a degree of certainty, but the majority cannot. Thus modern catalogues tend to group coins by regional rather than tribal classification. The coinage itself seems to have originated with copies of Greek coins that were familiar to western Europeans fighting as mercenaries for various warring Mediterranean city states. There is good reason to believe that much of southern Britain was at various times politically linked to western Gaul, with free movement of goods and people across the English Channel. This resulted in a common currency used both in Britain and on the mainland, with local regional types evolving in time.

The first coins appear to have been large flan units based on Greek staters (**Fig 8**). These originally copied issues by Philip II of Macedon, but seem to have adopted design elements from other Greek coins in the process. These coins can be found over a wide area of southern and eastern Britain and either reflect an inter-tribal acceptance of them, or perhaps a period of political unity with Gaul. Another widespread issue



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

are uniface staters, perhaps associated with the Roman assault on Gaul and Britain in the 1st century BCE (Fig 9). Of similar distribution are quarter-units with highly abstracted designs (Fig 10). Some see the obverse design as 'men-in-a-boat' but I myself see nothing more than a devolution of a head by progressive stages until an immobilised but widely accepted image emerged.

At some time in the 2nd or 1st centuries BCE, regional variations of the Phillip stater began to appear, with ever-increasing abstraction, such as (Fig 11) and (Fig 12), both North Thames varieties. In south-Western Britain similar coins were produced, but became progressively debased (Fig 13) and in Eastern England the horse became transformed into a wolf (Fig 14). A wide range of quarter staters were produced, examples shown here being (Fig 15), a North Thames 'Qc' variant and (Fig 16), an inscribed issue from the Southern region bearing both a place and personal name.

Silver units were widely struck, examples here being (Fig 17), from the East of England and (Fig 18), a Southern region variety. Copper-alloy issues were confined to the East and South-East, early ones being cast in a tin-rich alloy often referred

to as 'potin'. British examples of these are (Fig 19) and (Fig 20), which copy Greek issues of Marseilles. Other cast coins were produced, such as this highly devolved type from the South-West (Fig 21); struck copper-alloy coins were produced in the North-Thames and South-Eastern regions, such as this example attributed to Cunobelinus (Fig 22).

When it comes to identifying other late Iron Age artefacts as pre-Roman, it is often not possible to say with precision when something was produced. The following selection of finds are all ones that might be labelled Iron Age or 'celtic' on the basis of form, but many will date from well into the Common Era.

The peoples of the Iron Age were highly accomplished metal workers and excelled at enamel work, as demonstrated here with a copper-alloy and enamel mount in typical La Tène style (Fig 23). Many types of harness fitting are known, some such as this small terret (Fig 24) probably used as strap guides. Native art styles continued throughout the Roman period and this bucket mount (Fig 25) owes little to Classical influences.

Another type of artefact which is specific to Southern Britain are pendant pestle and

mortar sets, such as (Fig 26), (Fig 27) and (Fig 28). Their function is unknown but the best guess is that they were used for mixing small quantities of a substance, either cosmetic or narcotic and were associated with an indigenous religious or social order.

Although for much of Britain the coming of the Romans defined the end of the Iron Age, elsewhere it was a different story. The Northern third of Britain was never conquered by Rome and the population continued to evolve their own cultural identities; the tribes to the extreme north became known as the Picts, although they were probably little different from tribes in Southern Britain at the time of the Roman invasion. Later on their distinctive artistic depictions show a merging of Germanic and Scandinavian influences until their ultimate absorption by the Irish invaders.

To the south, as the Saxons claimed more and more of Britain, the peoples of the South-West seem to have developed a trading association with the Mediterranean, where the Romans became the Byzantines. Iron Age Britain faded away and became medieval Britain, but the period remains one of the most dynamic episodes of British history.



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25

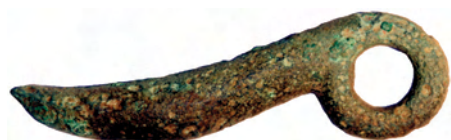


Figure 26



Figure 27



Figure 28



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Getting Hammered – Year 3

By Andrew Thompson

I find it hard to believe that four years have now passed since I first set out into the fields with a detector. The bug has certainly bitten as I look forward with eager anticipation to every opportunity I get to be out with my machine.

Those of you that have read the previous two articles will know that I have a passion for finding hammered coins. This last year however they have been a little thin on the ground and despite all my efforts, I managed to unearth just eight of the little blighters, bringing my total to date to 28. In some ways it seems little to

show from three years of searching but to me each one is special and makes the digging of thousands of holes in their pursuit, worth every minute. Don't get me wrong though, it's not just them I care about, I also get excited about unearthing all sorts of other lost artefacts and coins and have a long wish list of items just

waiting to be crossed off.

At the top of this list are the gold hammered, silver units, gold and silver Roman, a hoard, Bronze Age axe head and Saxon gold that we all dream of finding, but also on that list are those that should be more attainable such as a purse bar, seal matrix, pipe tamper, toy cannon,



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

milled silver, etc. some of which I hoped I might find this year.

I have been using my Deus for two years now, and after obtaining the large coil at the start of the year, have been using this exclusively. Although I find pinpointing a little difficult at times, especially with coins set at an angle, I believe that I am achieving much better ground coverage so hopefully am finding most things that I walk over that are within detecting depth.

New Permissions

I managed to gain a new permission this year, which along with a small local farm and the digs organised by my club enabled me to get out digging on 85 occasions, and strangely almost all in good weather, which was a real bonus. Soil conditions have varied from ideal, through to as hard as concrete then to the other extreme, thoroughly water-logged. Amongst the large amount of scrap metal I dug up, including my 100th horseshoe, I managed to make a number of interesting finds.

The new site covers about 120 acres around a country house close to the Thames. All laid to grass, it is a mixture of lawns and rough pasture and being alluvial soil it was easy to dig. The downside however is that the ground has not been ploughed in living memory so although there was activity back to Roman times in the immediate area, only finds dating back a few hundred years are within detecting depth. Still it is all good practice, and over the course of the year I managed to winkle out over 2,000 coins along with various artefacts.

The coins were interesting with a ratio of 4:1 in favour of pre-decimal, with the oldest

being a William and Mary halfpenny in reasonable condition. A good number of silver coins surfaced dating from George III to modern times, including a Gothic florin, a lovely condition 1942 halfcrown and a Victoria Jubilee head threepence as well as Victorian gold wedding ring (**Fig 1**). I also unearthed an interesting buckle, a decorated medieval book clasp and a crotal bell (**figs 2, 3 and 4**).

Research

As part of my research into the site I discovered that a particular part of the river bank had, prior to WW2, been used for swimming, with a couple of the concrete steps into the river still remaining. Careful searching revealed this area to be a hot spot for silver coins, some several to a hole, which were clearly pocket losses from what must have been a popular bathing and sunbathing spot.

Other uses the land was put through included a spell of military occupation and campsites for youngsters in various organisations as shown by the badges in **Fig 5**. I also dug up a brass cylinder with a screw cap and war department markings, the oil bottle that would have been stored in the butt of a Lee Enfield rifle. Despite its years in the ground it was still half filled with a clean green oil.

Re-united

Fairly early in the year my club received an email from a chap in Ascot who had lost his gold signet ring whilst gardening. I was able to respond and arrived to find a long narrow Victorian terraced garden with power cables running down both sides and densely planted. He had been gathering leaves,

raking the lawn and planting and pruning shrubs and had discovered its loss at the end of the day.

My search started with the bags of garden rubbish, moved to the lawn and then to the shrubbery. Everything was densely planted, so it was impossible to get close to the ground even with the small coil. I eventually decided to dig up each of the shrubs he had planted and with my probe managed to winkle it out from about 10" down from the second hole. It had been a 60th birthday present from his wife so he was overjoyed to be reunited with it. (**fig 6**).

First hammered

It was three months into the year before I found my first hammered. I was on a Metal Detectives dig in Thatcham, working my way across pasture on the flood plain of the Kennet. My first find was a curious Victoria sixpence with seven holes drilled through it, I would be intrigued to know why and what it might have been used for (**fig 7**). I then had a nice two way signal (71 on the meter), so I was likely to be either a ring pull, of which I had found six already, or a hammered. Luckily it was the latter, and from about 4" down out popped an Edward II penny, Class 11b 1310-1314, London mint. (**fig 8**)

Much later in the day as I started to work my way back towards the car I had a cracking signal and from over a foot down I managed to winkle out my first Roman disc brooch (**fig 9**). The pin was missing as was the enamel and central stone, but the back still carried a thick layer of tinning. I also managed a very mangled silver thimble, but with enough detail to identify it and it is shown against a pristine example found on the web (**fig 10**).



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15

A week later, on another site where Roman coins have been found in the past I managed to unearth a lovely condition nummus of Constantine AD 312/3, (fig 11), part of a Roman military buckle with two horses heads (fig 12) along with a nice George III shilling (fig 13).

The next hammered to fall to my coil was over a month later. I was searching a large sweeping ploughed and rolled field and, four hours into the search, and with only a few buttons to show for my efforts, I got an iffy signal, good one way and very scratchy the other. I dug out a spadeful of soil but all I could see was a pile of loose earth and a couple of small round stones. Using the pinpoint, I narrowed it down to one of the stones and initially thought 'hot rock', although that didn't make sense as it was a flint. The mystery was solved when I turned the stone over, and there curved around it was a hammered coin. It turned out to be a Richard I or John, voided short cross penny class 2-5c 1189-1209 (fig 14).

Worth the wait

A further two months went by before the next materialised, this time two from separate fields. The ground was by this time getting hard to dig so I was being fussy about the signals I dug. The first was a good two way signal (showing 49 on the display), which usually indicates a small button or piece of lead, but I am pleased that I chose

to dig it as out popped a small fragment of grey disc. I was really chuffed when I cleaned it off to have found my very first cut half! It was later identified as a William of Scotland, cut half penny short cross and stars coinage, phase A 1195-1205. (fig 15).

I moved over into the next field and after another two hours of careful gridding, got another much better clear two way signal, this time a Henry V penny, 1413-22 (fig 15) from about 5" down. Two hammered in one day, I was well pleased!

Towards the end of August the ground was becoming rock hard and I was searching amongst hard baked stubble. Up until then the only signals were small pieces of lead that always give a good signal, so when I got another beep in my ear I wasn't too hopeful. As the soil was like concrete I had to force the point of my spade into a small crack in the soil and after a lot of effort managed to lever out a large clod. I smacked this with the edge of the spade to break it into smaller pieces and finally managed to get a piece the size of a golf ball which beeped as I passed it over my coil. I whacked it again with the edge of the spade and it split in half revealing, almost dead centre a Henry VIII half groat 1526-32 Canterbury Archbishop Warham (fig 16) in lovely condition. By the look of the impression in the soil it must have been in that particular clod for many years, which had probably helped protect it from the plough.

One off my 'Wish List'

My local farmer doesn't like his pasture fields being dug, so I was pleased to discover he had just ploughed one of his furthest fields. When I got there it was to find it had been really deeply ploughed, good for bringing old objects to the surface but at the risk of stumbling and breaking an ankle.

I spent several hours staggering around my local version of the Somme, and eventually, within an area of about ten square yards I managed three really strong signals, each one about 81 both ways on the meter. Although badly corroded I could just make out the impression of the heads so I was confident that they were all small Roman bronzes (fig 17).

Although pleased to find Roman I was a little disappointed as I knew that a small hoard of denarii had been found some 16 years previously in one of the adjacent fields and a denarius is high on my wish list.

I took the coins along to my regular meeting with David Williams my FLO, and was very surprised when, as soon as I placed my three Roman 'bronzes' on the table, he said, 'you've got treasure there, they're denarii'. To say that I was surprised is an understatement as I think from the photos you'll agree that they don't look much like silver coins. I'd been wanting to find a denarius ever since I started detecting, and I had found three without even realising it!

As soon as I could, I let the farmer know



Figure 16



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 18a



Figure 21

about them, and that he would be receiving paperwork from the coroner as they were going through the treasure process. Although the field had by now been rolled and seeded, he agreed to let me back on to search, and I was able, by increasing the size of my search grid, to find another three all in the same poor condition, one with edge damage (**Fig 18**). These have since been added to the original treasure find and then subsequently all disclaimed.

As these are the only denarii I have ever found, I was really pleased when they were returned to me. As the photos show they were in extremely poor condition so I wondered whether I could do anything to improve their appearance. I made a small electrolysis unit from an old mobile phone charger and two crocodile clips and gave each coin about 30 minutes in ten minute increments, cleaning with a toothbrush at each stage to work on the several layers of encrustation. I was absolutely amazed by the results as they were totally transformed from grot box quality to shiny, detail filled coins, exactly the type that I had dreamed of finding! **Fig 18a**. (Ed's note: Always get advise before cleaning your finds).

I was also lucky enough to find a Henry III penny, (1247-79) Canterbury mint (**fig 19**) towards one end of the field and a Charles I half groat (**fig 20**) on my way back to the car. I also turned up what is probably a Roman bi-conical steelyard weight and my

first purse bar swivel mount [Ward Perkins Type B1] (**fig 21**), two more things to cross off my wish list.

More Roman

By this time another field on the other side of the road had been ploughed so I was eager to get on that and after several visits managed to turn up 16 musket balls, a small shield shaped mount, (**fig 22**) a very worn sestertius and yet another denarius in exactly the same condition as the ones from the field over a mile away. Their poor condition must be something to do either with the acidity of the soil or the effect of agricultural chemicals.

Another tick off the list!

I returned a week later as the farmer had agreed to let me prospect one of his smaller pasture fields as it was due to be ploughed shortly. The normal buttons and pieces of lead turned up to start with, but as I reached the end of the field within the space of about 30 minutes, good signals brought forth a William IV trade weight (**Fig 23**), part of a Victorian silver brooch (**Fig 24**) and joy of joys a small seal matrix with an incised bird, probably a duck, which had no hallmarks but looked to be made of white metal (**fig 25**). A seal of any sort has long been on my wish list so I was pleased to be able to tick it off. David Williams confirmed that it was actually silver, probably 17th century, and so also a treasure find.

To finish off the year...

My last hammered of the year came from a large pasture field and after several hours of searching I got an iffy signal and turned up a strange silver coin that I did not recognise. Research on the internet later that evening identified it as a Ferdinand and Isabella half real 1475-1504 (**fig 26**), my first foreign hammered coin.

Later in the day a really clear two way signal, turned up a little bronze cannon, (**fig 27**) just 30mm in length, yet something else from my wish list. Although all gunged up I was able to clean through the bore and the touch hole so now it could potentially be used. Although made in many sizes and this is just a tiny example, I am surprised that such potentially lethal toys were available to children in those days.

So year three had now come to an end and to my mind it was a successful one with two treasure finds (both since disclaimed), eight hammered, and amongst other things a denarius, seal matrix, purse bar swivel joint and toy cannon to cross off my wish list. With this year's finds, I now have a total of 218 items recorded on the PAS database.

There are, however many items still on my wish list, and if the last three years have been anything to go by I can't wait for next year to try and cross some more of them off!

Happy detecting everyone!



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26



Figure 27

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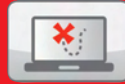
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Finder's address: Please include a contact address (preferably postal) when sending in inquiries. We may need more information about a find so it is important to include an address where we can contact you. Names and addresses are **NEVER** passed on to any third party.

Illustrations: In order to provide accurate identifications and valuations we need good quality photographs, scans or drawings to work from. Images of finds should be posted to us, as we **DO NOT** undertake the task of printing out images from computer screens. It is a simple matter to take a printout to a book in one of the many libraries we use for research purposes, but it is not always possible to do the same with an image on a computer screen.

Dimensions/metal: When sending in images of finds please provide details of size and whatever metal things are made of (if known). Some Roman coins utilise the same legends and design for different denominations, so size can be important.

Speed of inclusion: Much depends on how many other finds are waiting to be featured in the Identification and Valuation Desk. Sometimes items appear very quickly but if there is a backlog it may take a little longer. If you require a speedy response then say so and we'll get back to you as quickly as possible (sometimes by return of post).

Treasure Act: For those not familiar with the Act we will give help and advice about what needs reporting and how it needs to be reported. Finds classed as treasure will only be published if they have been through or are going through the necessary procedure.

Identification & Valuation Desk, PO Box 197, Leeds LS18 5WQ or Email: coinidman@yahoo.co.uk

The detectorist responsible for digging up the two coins featured on this page asked if we could name him just as 'Pete'; he asked us for a grade for each coin and a possible value, in order that "...the landowner gets his share."

The first coin is a Continental sterling, which is an example of the crockard type – so called because the head on the obverse has a crocket of roses in its hair. On the obverse the legend reads *ION S COMES HANONIE* around the beaded inner circle.



The long cross on the reverse is similar to that found on pennies of Edward I but the legend reads *MON ETA MON TES*. Therefore, this sterling was struck for Jean II d'Avesnes as Count of Hainaut (1280-1304) in the Low Countries. It was struck at the mint in Mons (famous for the battle fought there during the First World War). There is some ghosting on the obverse from the long cross on the reverse but the coin is otherwise in good Fine condition. Some Continental sterlings are quite rare but we've seen a few examples of this one as detecting finds. In its

present state of preservation we'd give it a price range of £40-50.

Find number two is a hammered gold half sovereign of Edward VI, the first gold coin Pete has ever located. Interestingly, it was found on Valentine's Day, 2013. If Pete is married then let's hope his wife received an equally good present on the same day. On the obverse is a profile bust of the young king and on the reverse a crowned and scroll-garnished oval shield flanked by E R. The mint mark on both sides is a swan, the coin was struck at the Southwark mint in London and the *Standard Catalogue*



reference number is 2438. We should mention that Lord Stewartby (in *English Coins 1180-1551*) catalogues this type as

being struck at the Tower of London.

Tragically, this hammered gold coin has a number of defects: the king's face is weak, a crease mark shows up on the obverse, and there is a crack in the flan (across the base of Edward's crown). In terms of wear, it would grade Fine+ but the defects would have a significant impact on its possible sale price. Pete asked if he and the landowner decided to put it up for sale then would it be beneficial to have it straightened. We said yes, we would advise that the coin was professionally straightened before being offered for sale; if put through an auctioneer then the firm should know someone who could do the remedial work. In terms of value, much would depend on what the coin looked like after it has been straightened; if it was flat with no crease marks then it would obviously sell for more. As it stands, the pre-sale estimate might be around £800-1000 but this could rise if its appearance improves after the remedial work has been carried out.

Next month: Amongst the coins will be an Ancient British gold stater and a quarter stater, pennies of William I and Henry I, a Henry VIII angel and two rare 17th century Yorkshire tokens. The artefacts will include English and foreign coin weights, a gold posy ring and a Papal bulla. These finds will be joined by many others in the April issue of *The Searcher*.

MEDIEVAL + ANGLO-SAXON. The first of these two finds is a coin and the second a brooch. Both were found by Sussex based Tyndall Jones, who always pays landowners for finds he is allowed to add to his collection; he wondered if £45 would be an appropriate figure to hand over for the coin. It's a Calais



mint groat of Henry VI, which is dateable from the pinecones and masles in the legends. The flan is a bit porous, it might have been slightly clipped and there is a scratch on the reverse. In this condition we'd say it would be worth no more than **£40**. Find number two, the brooch, is cast in copper-alloy in the shape of a bird of prey. The tail, chest, back and eye of the bird are decorated with dots but the central area is



gilded. On the reverse are the mounts for a fastening pin (with a blob of rust attached) and the remains of a catchplate. Mr Jones initially thought the brooch might be Roman but he is puzzled by the gilding, as the Romans (and British of the same period) used enamel inlay; he now wonders if it could be Saxon, even though nothing of that period has previously turned up on the find site. This is an early Anglo-Saxon bird brooch, which will date between the second half of the 5th and the first half of the 6th century. Brooches of this type are certainly rarer than many other types made during the pagan period. Its state of preservation is difficult to assess but it looks to be intact and the front face appears to be in reasonable condition. Basing our price range on images rather than sight of the find itself, we'd say it should be worth at least **£75**.

ANCIENT BRITISH. Chris Rudd and Elizabeth Cottam have argued convincingly in *Britain's First Coins* that coins like the one featured here are British and not Celtic. Therefore, from now on, Celtic is dropped and henceforth only Ancient British will be used. The photographs were sent in by Lincolnshire-based David Robinson, who has identified the coin as a silver unit of the Corieltavi. Over the years Lincolnshire has given up a very high number of Ancient British coins but Mr Robinson was very excited when he unearthed this one, for

it is the first he has found in 30 years of searching. This just goes to show that even though our ancestors occupied large areas of Lincolnshire a couple of thousands years since, there were places that saw little or no activity. Mr Robinson said he has not traced a similar coin in his books or on the internet, so he asked if we could pin it down. He is



correct in thinking it is a silver unit of the Corieltavi. On the obverse is a boar facing right, with two arches of pellets above and a ring and dot motif at both ends. The reverse features a horse with very large ears, with a crescent and a ring and dot above. This type is listed as number 396 in the *Standard Catalogue*. It is a very rare variety, which is listed in *Ancient British Coins* (number 1785) as the 'Crown Proto Boar' type. The reverse is off centre but the coin is otherwise in VF+ condition. In 2008 a coin of the same type but in EF condition sold at auction for £700. This example is not as fine, so would not realise such a high price; however, it should be worth at least **£200**.

MEDIEVAL. Yorkshire-based Mr D. Rahaman sent in the photographs of this coin on behalf of a friend. We were told that the finder has had no luck in getting it identified and valued. Mr Rahaman thought it might be a penny of Henry II but he noticed that the legends look rather jumbled and that it appears to be a double or mis-strike; he hoped we could shed some light on the coin, as he said he had never seen anything similar in 45 years of detecting and coin collecting. Rather than being a



penny of Henry II, this find is a coin of John. It was struck during class Vb of the voided short cross coinage. The coin has been struck once then turned over between the dies and struck again. The end result is part of the obverse on the reverse and vice versa. From about 8 o'clock to 1 o'clock on the obverse everything is correct; there is also an area on the reverse reading ON.CA, which is as it should be. However, the remainder, including the quatrefoil on the king's cheek, is the result of the coin being turned over. It is rare to see this defect during the short cross coinage but we have seen a number of long cross coins like this. The defect seldom occurs on later coins but we have seen a penny of Edward II, which looked perfectly okay apart from the fact that it has DNS directly over the king's crown. The part of the reverse legend that

reads ON.CA could be taken to indicate the coin is a product of the Canterbury mint. This, though, is not the case. Before ON.CA is a letter S and this is the final letter in the moneyer's name. There are no Canterbury moneyers with a name ending with S; however, the single moneyer employed at the Carlisle mint was named Thomas and that official will have been responsible for the issue of this coin. The mint signature, were it fully visible, would be CAR or CARD. The good news is that Carlisle is one of the rarest mints for the reign of John. Were this coin well struck then it would have been worth more but as it is from a very rare mint then even with the striking defects our minimum price range would be **£80-100**.

VIKING. Few detectorists locate items dating from the Viking period. Those that do turn up are usually made of copper-alloy; items made of silver are rare and things made of gold are few and far between. Devin Wormsley has therefore been very fortunate indeed to unearth this find, which is a Thor's hammer made of gold. They are not particularly rare in bronze and silver but only two or three in gold have been found in England. The length of this one is 43mm and its weight is 15 grams. Thor's hammer



is supposed to be able to level mountains; in Norse mythology its name is Mjolnir (the spelling varies), which translates as "That which smashes". Mr Wormsley's find has been reported under the Treasure Act and at the time of writing it is working its way through the procedure. A museum has already expressed an interest in acquiring this find, so it is highly doubtful that it will end up being disclaimed. During 2012 a Thor's hammer made of silver and dated to 9th-11th century realised £1,300 when sold



at auction; one in gold would be worth more but what the figure will be will only be known when Mr Wormsley receives a provisional valuation from the Treasure Department at the British Museum.

EUROPEAN. This coin is worn, chipped, cracked, bent and clipped, which has left us very little to work from. It was found by Nigel Gardiner, who said he had been unable to identify it. On the obverse, surrounded by a tressure, is a crowned shield bearing a very complicated coat of arms. Only the start of the legend can be seen and it reads ARCHID. Within an inner circle on the reverse is a very florid cross, with a quatrefoil with something inside it in the centre; a small area of the legend reads DEI but hardly anything else shows up. So,



what is it and where does it come from? The cross on the reverse is similar to those found of double patards struck for the Dukes of Burgundy. However, the arms on the shield on the obverse are different. We eventually pinned the coin down as a three patard piece of Albert and Isabella, who ruled over Brabant (a province in the Hapsburg Netherlands) from 1598 to 1621. There would be a date at the top of the reverse but the crucial area is where a piece of the edge is missing. Over the years a number of different people ruled over Brabant and on a coin where much detail is missing the arms can be used to identify the issuing authority. This isn't a particularly scarce coin but it is the first of its type we have heard of as a detecting find. It's an interesting find but in its present state of preservation it would be of minimal commercial value.

TUDOR. The finder of this coin, Ian Fussell of Hampshire, describes it as "stunning". He knows it is an Elizabeth I sixpence dated 1564 but there are several varieties and he wonders if this one is Spink number 2561B. A few people have already seen the coin and



graded it as VF but Mr Fussell wants to know how we would grade and value it, as he wants to give the landowner 50% of what it could be worth. This sixpence is dated 1564 on the reverse, with the last digit struck over a 2 in

the die. On the obverse is the large bust of Elizabeth I, so this sixpence is listed as number 2561B in the *Standard Catalogue*. On the obverse there is slight weakness on the queen's dress but this side is otherwise in VF condition. The reverse is weak in one quarter of the shield, so we'd grade it as nearly VF. This bust type (3E) turns up less frequently than the standard variety but is not particularly rare; however, it could be described as very scarce. The coin is well above average for an Elizabeth I sixpence; the catalogue price for the large bust in VF condition is £425 but specimens can often be bought for a lower figure. If sold at auction then on a good day, provided that it has not been cleaned, this coin might realise a hammer price of £350. On a bad day, though, it could sell for a figure in the region of **£200**. If Mr Fussell and the landowner want to decide upon a value then we would suggest that they use the highest and lowest figures in their negotiations.

ANGLO-SAXON. This find was sent in by Dorset-based Dave Cobb, who is a regular contributor to the ID & V Desk. Dave knows it is a stirrup-strap mount he doesn't have the standard reference work on these things (*Late Saxon Stirrup-Strap Mounts* by David Williams), so he asked if we could classify and value it for him. At the top is the head of an animal, which has large and open ears. Below is more imagery, which could be



zoomorphic or foliate but it is difficult to interpret with any degree of certainty. This find is listed by Williams as a class A, type 16 mount. Only four examples are recorded by Williams (this one is very similar to number 362), so this is quite a scarce type of mount. There is a small chip from the top-left edge and the surface is a bit rough but the mount is otherwise in good condition. Pricing is difficult, as sale figures at auction can be up and down. However, in its present condition we'd give this mount a minimum price range of **£50-80**.

ANGLO-SAXON. The finder of this coin wished to be recorded simply as a 'Lincolnshire detectorist'. It's an Anglo-Saxon penny of Aethelred II, which turned

up late in 2012. The coin is an example of the CRVX type and the legend on the reverse reads +DVDA M-O CAENT, so the moneyer is Duda and the mint Canterbury. It's perfectly round, well struck and looks to be in VF condition. It is remarkable that the Anglo-Saxons could make coins of this quality, yet most of the later Normans and those that followed on produced silver currency of an abysmal standard. Most of



the pennies of William I are well struck but the overall quality starts to deteriorate after William II comes to the throne, and during the reign of Stephen the standard drops still further. Just when things look as if they can't be any worse, the 'Tealby' coinage of Henry II comes along; this is the absolute low point, when lots of coins were turned out with only small areas showing any of the design. Apart from being a little dark in colour, this Aethelred II penny is a really attractive coin, which would be priced at a figure no lower than **£320** if bought from a dealer.

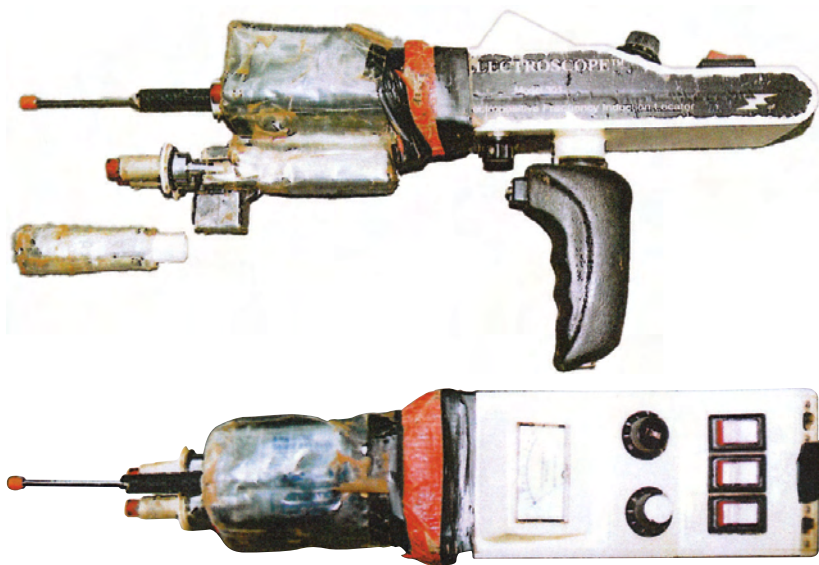
20th CENTURY? This strange looking item was located by Mr A. R. Willcocks of Cheshire. It's a statuette, which measures



about 185mm tall (shown reduced in size), weighs in at one pound six ounces and is brassy in appearance. Mr Willcocks was

drawn to the statuette by an electronic device that we've never seen nor heard of but perhaps some readers of *The Searcher* have something similar in their possession. Amongst the paperwork we were sent was a picture of the actual device (Model 301 Electroscope by Thomas) that Mr Willcocks had used. A side and top view are shown (reduced in size); it weighs 28 ounces and when the main antenna (the part with a red knob on the end) is extended the overall length is 30 inches. In the accompanying blurb it is said to be capable of locating targets 12 feet deep, it can differentiate between gold and silver and has a range over half a mile for a handful of coins. We were asked if we could provide some information about the statuette. It has a distinctly Art Deco look about it, so the most probable time of manufacture will be circa 1925 to 1935. Other than that, we couldn't say anything else about it. However, the way in which Mr Willcocks located it is interesting and he had a great surprise when he tested the metal only last year; most of what follows is in his own words: "The statuette was bought in the local junk shop back in 1999 for just £2. I bought the statuette and two others because I was using an Electroscope Model 301 in the area and picked up a signal coming from the building [where the junk shop was situated]. So I took a punt on what might be producing the signal. I do not scope buildings with the Electroscope but when I first picked up the signal I was standing in the middle of the countryside,

one mile from the location." The statuette was shown to an archaeologist, who said it probably came out of a souvenir shop. After that it was placed in a box in a garage and remained there until 2013. We resume the story in the words of Mr Willcocks: "A week later I took the statuette to a field ... and scoped it from different directions, backing off about one-third of a mile. The Electroscope picked up a perfect gold signal at this distance. I now started to wonder if this [the statuette] was the signal I'd picked up all those years ago standing on a hill, one mile from the location." What a remarkable story! The statuette is mounted upon a block of wood and on the front there is a plate, upon which is CIVILTA NURAGIC. Mr Willcocks suggests that Nuragic could indicate the place of origin is Sardinia. After doing some research he found that the statuette is meant to represent the great mother earth goddess. The final part of the story is the most astonishing. In 2013, after checking out the metal with a gold testing kit, Mr Willcocks discovered that the statuette is made of high carat gold! We don't think it would be of any great value as a collectors' piece, but as one pound six ounces of high carat gold then it would be worth a small fortune. If this makes you want to dash out and buy an Electroscope then don't ask us where you can get one, for, as we've already said, we've never seen nor heard of a strange looking gadget like the one pictured here.



TUDOR. The finder of this coin, Colin Barton, thought it was a London groat of Henry VI but asked for our opinion on it. It is actually a groat of Henry VII, with mint mark cross crosslet on both side. On the obverse the king wears a crown with a single arch, of a type used during class IVa. This was struck at the same time as coins bearing a profile portrait of Henry VII and it is one of the last groats to have on the obverse the old style facing bust of the king. We've seen a number of Henry VII groats as detecting finds but this is certainly one of the best.

The edge is slightly ragged (from about 7 o'clock to 8.30 on the obverse) but the coin is otherwise in VF condition. The king's



portrait is particularly nice and if this coin was offered for sale there would be no lack of potential purchasers.

IRISH + 18th CENTURY. Here are two more finds from a batch sent in by Glenn Lister of Cheshire. Glenn suspected the first might be an Irish hammered coin but he wanted to know what we thought about it. It has a quaterfoil in the centre of the reverse, which is the mark placed upon most coins from the ecclesiastical mint at York from the reign of Edward I up to Henry VII.



However, rather than being English, this is definitely an Irish penny of Edward IV; on the obverse the pellets either side of the king's chin are found on many Irish pennies but never on English pennies of Edward IV. The flan is very small but rather than being clipped it might have been this size when the coin left the mint. As Irish pennies of the 1470s go, this isn't a bad specimen and we'd expect a keen collector to offer at least **£35** for it. Find number two is a jetton or tally, which we'd date to the 18th century but it might be slightly earlier. We believe these things were given out on farms, to workers employed to do certain tasks. After a shift they might get one or more tallies, which could be exchanged at the end of the week for coin of the realm. Detectorists have



unearthed very large numbers on farmland, where many people will have been employed in the past on ploughing, drilling, planting and harvesting. This tally is unusual, in that there is a name -NICHOLAS TURNER - integrally cast onto one side. We've seen patterns, initials and occasionally dates on these things but this is the first we have come across with an individual's name on it. The excess metal on the edge is likely to be where the lead was poured into the mould; the metal would set very quickly and the casting spruce would then simply be broken away.



MEDIEVAL. Any detectorist would be thrilled to find a gold finger ring but Phil Jackson was lucky enough to unearth two on the same site. Both have been reported and at the time of writing they were working their way through the procedure outlined in the Treasure Act. Find number one has an internal diameter of 18.5mm, which is a good size. The bezel is inset with a turquoise stone, which looks to be a bit loose in the



setting. Overall, the ring looks to be undamaged and in very good condition. However, in order to give a reasonably accurate valuation it would have to be seen and handled. Find number two will date from the 15th century and is smaller than the last one. Around the exterior it is engraved with three words, which are separated by foliate decoration; the letters in the words are not



altogether clear but the local FLO has suggested a reading of *en bon desir* (which could be interpreted as *in good desire*). Rings like this used to be very rare indeed but several have been found by detectorists over the last couple of decades. Prices at auction have ranged between £1,000 and £5,000. The value depends on a number of things: size, weight, inscription (inside, outside or both), other decoration (inside, outside or both), quality of engraving, enamel inlay and (most important of all) the state of preservation. And, of course, demand on the open market. Mr Jackson and the landowner will now have to wait to see if a museum wants to add to its collection one or both of these rather attractive gold finger rings.

CELTIC. We've said before that the longer you search then the more likely you are to find something really good. The coin pictured here measures only about 11mm in diameter but is shown enlarged to highlight the fine detail. It's a Celtic gold quarter stater, which was found by a detectorist based in Hampshire who wants to be known as Hedgehopper. We were told that he has been detecting for 35 years but this is his first gold and the oldest coin he has ever found. Hedgehopper wants to know as much as we can tell him about his find. The coin is well struck and the detail stands out clearly.

The obverse is a closer copy of the original Macedonian stater than the degraded portraits seen on most Celtic gold coins. On the reverse is a left-facing horse, on the back of which is a warrior holding an oval shield; in front of the horse is what appears to be a star and between its legs is a symbol. We



have access to quite a range of reference works on European Celtic coinages but after spending quite some time going through them we could not trace a coin that matched the one found by Hedgehopper. We tracked down a few Gaulish gold coins that were similar but none that were exactly the same. After failing to pin it down we sought the advice of a leading authority on Celtic coins. They, too, could not trace an exact match. However, they were of the opinion that the coin falls between the Normandy series (DT 2036-39A) and the Redones series (DT 2092-93). It is certainly an Amoric quarter stater, 2nd century BC, and probably very rare – perhaps even an unrecorded variety. The DT references are to *Nouvel Atlas des monnaies gauloises* by I. P. Delestree and M. Tache. In Hedgehopper's letter he said that this is the first gold and oldest coin he has found in 35 years of detecting. It might have taken three and a half decades to find but it would seem that after all that time he has unearthed a quite important and very rare gold coin. Therefore, it could be argued that this beautiful coin was well worth the very long wait. So, other detectorists should not grow despondent if they have a long run of bad luck, for the next signal might lead to something just as good as this find.

IRISH. John Garner of Lancashire asked if we could confirm his ID of this coin as an Irish sixpence of James I. It turned up



recently whilst Mr Garner was detecting during a rally organised by the Crewe and Nantwich Club. The coin definitely is an

Irish sixpence of James I. It was struck during the first coinage and has mint mark bell on both sides. The obverse legend includes ANG SCO and the legend on the reverse starts with TVEATVR. It is smaller than an English sixpence but a good size for an Irish issue. At this time Irish shillings and sixpences were made of good silver but were lighter than their English counterparts, so in this country they circulated at a lower face value. They turn up not infrequently as detecting finds and most are rather worn, which suggests they had been in circulation for quite some time. This one, like some others we have seen, might have been bent and used as a love token. The overall condition isn't good, for both sides are only Fair and there are bends in the flan. As Irish sixpences are not particularly scarce, in its present state of preservation our best price range for this one would be **£15-18**.

MEDIEVAL. Mr N. Waite of Wiltshire said that this is one find from a group found in the same stubble field after the 2013 harvest. He describes it as a "shield object" and asked for a rough value so that he could "settle up" with the farmer. The find is a shield-shaped copper-alloy seal matrix, which will be 13th century in date. On the back is a loop for suspension. There is what appears to be a coat of arms in the centre of



the face, made up of a paly background and a bendlet; unfortunately the description matches a few arms, so as the colouring is uncertain we cannot pin it down to a person or family. The surrounding legend reads +S' (an abbreviation for sigillum) ADOIONIS II SALANOVA. We tried a number of slightly different spellings in an effort to translate the words but failed to do so. If anyone can make sense of the legend then do let us know. The matrix looks to be in exceptionally good condition and should be worth at least **£200**.

ANGLO-SAXON. The images of this Anglo-Saxon cut halfpenny were sent in by Brian Poole of Wiltshire but the coin was found by his son, Robin. Mr Poole described the coin as a rather odd cut half of Aethelred II, which appeared to have a helmet type obverse (*Standard Catalogue* number 1152) but a reverse of the last small cross type (S. 1154). We were asked if it is unusual to

have two apparently unrelated dies. The combination of an obverse die with one that is earlier or later did occasionally happen during the later Anglo-Saxon period but very, very rarely. When we examined the images we came to a different conclusion. Rather than being a mule dating from the reign of Aethelred II, we identified the coin as a radiate type penny of Edward the Confessor (S. 1173). Problems sometimes arise with cut coins, as only half of the imagery can be seen; many Anglo-Saxon



pennies have similar obverse and reverse designs, so when only half is visible it is often quite easy to get things wrong. And, the design can vary in style on coins of exactly the same type. The legend on the reverse of this cut halfpenny reads BRIHTRIC, which is the full name of the moneyer. Unfortunately, we can't identify the mint as an official named Brihtric was employed at no less than half a dozen different mints during the reign of Edward the Confessor. As is usually the case with Anglo-Saxon coins, this cut halfpenny is very well struck and it is also in really good condition. Therefore, it counts as a really good detecting find.

ROMAN. Here are two more 'eyes only' finds, which were sent in by Damon Ward on behalf of a farmer's brother, who spotted them over the years whilst working the land. The first is a denarius of Septimius Severus (AD 193-211). On the reverse is the standing figure of Felicitas, together with a legend reading FELICITAS AVGG. David Sear (in volume II of *Roman Coins and Their Values*) lists this type as number 6273; it was struck



at Rome in AD 205. The coin is struck on a flan that is too large for the dies and the end result is a good deal of surplus metal extending beyond the outer beaded circle. In terms of wear, it would grade VF but as it is a fairly common type we'd price it no higher than **£25**. However, who wouldn't be really thrilled to see a coin like this laid on the soil? Find number two is a billon follis of Licinius Junior, as Caesar under Licinius (AD 317-24). Licinius Senior was emperor of the Eastern Empire, whilst Constantine I ruled over the Western Empire. The two fell out and Licinius Senior was put to death in AD 325; the life of his son was spared but in AD 326 he, too, was executed.

On the obverse of this coin is the helmeted and cuirassed bust of Licinius Junior, who holds a spear and shield; the legend on this side reads D N VAL LICIN LICINIVS NOB C. On the reverse is Jupiter, holding



in one hand a globe with Victory above it and an eagle-tipped sceptre in the other; to his left, on the ground, is another eagle and to the right a seated captive. In the exergue are the mint letters (SMALB) for Alexandria and around the edge is a legend reading IOVI CONSERVATORI. The coin is in VF condition but has slight corrosion on the reverse. Our price range on this quite attractive coin would be **£18-20**.

MEDIEVAL. Paul Cooper unearthed this find and thought it would be of interest to readers of *The Searcher*. Some detectorists will already know what it is but these things are quite rare, so some won't recognise it. The find is a steelyard weight, which looks very large but the single image actually shows it *reduced in size*. It actually measures about 80mm in diameter at its widest point and it tips the scales at an astonishing 3000 grams! The only decoration is three incised lines just below the suspension loop. The outer body is made of copper-alloy, which is then filled with lead to bring it to a certain



weight. The steelyard itself was a balance with unequal arms and the item being weighed would be suspended from the shorter end and a weight moved along the other end until it balanced. This type of weight came into use in the second half of the 13th century and was in use for about 100 years. According to Nigel Mills (page 77 in *Medieval Artefacts*) the use of the steelyard was banned in 1350. Most English steelyard weights have coats of arms around

the central area, sometimes raised but at other times cut into the surface. We have dated this weight to the medieval period but we should mention that at least one source has dated similar weights as being Roman. What seems absolutely certain is that a find of this size and weight would have given off a very loud signal in Mr Copper's headphones.

MEDIEVAL + STUART. Here are a couple more detecting finds sent in by Mr A. R Button of Lincolnshire. The first is a penny of Edward IV, which has on the obverse a G and a key by the king's shoulders; on the reverse there is a quatrefoil in the centre.



These characteristics show that this penny was struck for the profit of Archbishop Neville of York during the second reign of Edward IV. The variety is listed in the *Standard Catalogue* as number 2130. On pennies of Edward IV it is usually impossible to see the mint mark but on this coin it is clearly a rose (on the obverse only). It has been struck well off centre but it is good enough to grade Fine for the issue, so we'd price it at **£25**. Coin number two is a copper farthing of Charles I. This appears to be a contemporary forgery of the Richmond type with the king's name reading CARLVVS.



Overall the workmanship is much cruder than on genuine farthings of this type. Charles I made a great deal of money by issuing licenses to make farthing and the licensees made even more. The copper content was well below the face value and this produced high profits for the licensees. A great many forgeries of the Richmond type also entered circulation and today they are not particularly uncommon as detecting finds. Even though this farthing is a forgery it is one of those coins that is probably more interesting through not being genuine. It would grade VF for the period and shouldn't be worth any less than **£15**.





Finds from the northern quarter – Part Two

By Brett Hammond

Fig A northern rural scene. One day soon the farmer who takes a cut of hay here may decide it's time to grow an arable crop. That's the time to seek search permission.
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Last issue I looked at the detecting prospects of three of the historic counties of northern England – Northumberland, Cumbria, Durham. We will now continue southwards with an overview of the situation in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. Each of these counties has much to offer and each has its unique history to reveal.

All images courtesy of TimeLine Auctions

Yorkshire:

The largest county in England has a history more than a match for its physical dimensions. Neolithic, Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlers exploited the region's rich agricultural lands and mineral deposits. Their habitation sites and monuments were ancient in the landscape before the Romans arrived in the late 1st century to establish Eboracum (York) as the capital of northern Britannia.

They built a complex communications network and more than a dozen major forts linked to their capital and to Hadrian's Wall. Villas, small towns and veteran soldiers' colonies flourished in the Vale of York from Piercebridge to the banks of the Humber, while the rivers

Ouse, Derwent and their tributaries carried shiploads of exports and imports bound for southern Britannia and the Continent. Romano-Celtic towns and small native settlements thrived peacefully under Pax Romana.

A Dark Age period followed the end of Roman rule; but two centuries later Anglians had made York the capital of Northumbria, and established an international market at Whitby; only to lose everything to invading Vikings who turned York into their trading and manufacturing capital of Jorvik. The Vikings left an amazing legacy of losses in the soils of Yorkshire before the forces of a united Anglo-Saxon England took possession of Yorkshire and Northumbria ... to lose all in turn to the Normans not long after 1066.

This pattern of prosperity then turmoil and a change of ruler also occurred in Yorkshire during later medieval times as Plantagenets, Angevins, Lancastrians, Tudors, Scots, Stuarts and the Commonwealth fought at various times to make the county their own. A marked difference between Yorkshire and regions already discussed lies in the huge areas of arable, with fields full of agricultural labourers several times each year. Anticipate Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Viking, Norman and later hammered coins, plus artefacts, on all fertile farmland. Seek riverside structures during periods of drought and search flanking fields.



Yorkshire 1 Viking bronze horse-head staff finial found near York



Yorkshire 2 Celtic Corieltavi silver unit from East Yorkshire



Yorkshire 3 Tudor hawking ring found East Yorkshire

Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire:

A Roman fortress at Lancaster played an important role in guarding the north-western flanks of Britannia against raiding Picts attempting landings around Morecambe Bay. When the Romans departed Vikings used the same routes in their migrations from Dublin and the Isle of Man. Norman and later monarchs maintained strong forts in Lancashire to guard against incursions by Scots. In Cheshire the Roman fortress at Chester played a similar role. Later absorbed into Anglo-Saxon Mercia, Cheshire witnessed Welsh, Viking and Scottish raiders. Derbyshire's Roman fort vanished years ago beneath expanding Derby. All three of these counties seem likely to witness increased arable farming during coming years if summer temperatures continue to climb and winter rains bring prolonged wet spells.



Lancashire 1 Initialled 17th century silver thimble found in Lancashire



Lancashire 2 Gold garter brooch found in Lancashire



Lancashire 3 18th century posy ring found in Lancashire



Cheshire 1 Bronze Jupiter figurine found near Chester



Cheshire 2 Roman bronze Venus statue found near Chester



Cheshire 3 15th century bronze strap-end found in Cheshire



Derbyshire 1 Bronze Age spearhead from Derbyshire



Derbyshire 2 Bronze Age socketed axe from Derbyshire

Derbyshire 3 Viking bronze sword pommel from Derbyshire



Nottinghamshire:

During high spring tides a bore (tidal surge) is often witnessed on the river Trent. Fittingly it is named the Aegir after a Norse sea god and must have been seen by many of the Vikings who rowed up and down the Trent in the 8th-10th centuries seeking plunder and land. They eventually settled down to farm the river's flood plain until Mercian Anglo-Saxons dislodged them.

However, the river remained a great highway for centuries afterwards, its habit of unexpectedly changing course leading to the destruction of numerous ferries, fords, landing stages and (later) bridges. The Romans made a paved ford at Littleborough; it and many other fords on the river were legally protected against dredging until the 18th century. Searches along fields flanking their locations can produce Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and later medieval losses.

In the Middle Ages the county and its great castles at Nottingham and Newark were heavily involved in the civil war between Maud and Stephen ... in the Wars of the Roses ... in the Royalist-v-Parliament struggles of the 17th century ... and several more rebellions against the crown. Meanwhile the river rolled on, with thousands of men and women employed in carrying wool, coal, pottery, grain, hops, textiles and other goods by barge. This is another county where much grassland in upland areas will convert to arable in the future.



Nottinghamshire 1 Stuart silver hawking whistle from Nottinghamshire



Nottinghamshire 2 Stuart silver clasped hands ring from Nottinghamshire



Nottinghamshire 3 Medieval bronze seal matrix from Nottinghamshire

Lincolnshire:

Although Lincolnshire already has a reputation for its arable produce, changes will undoubtedly occur in response to altered weather patterns in the future ... perhaps including the introduction of new crops requiring deeper cultivations. Meanwhile, as many detectorists in the region have already discovered, the county's soil holds an abundance of losses.

Coin-using Celtic tribes left money and relics in the ground before the Romans arrived in the 1st century to build dykes, improve the land, construct more than a dozen forts and criss-cross the region with major roads. All fell into disrepair after the Romans departed in the 5th century. When the Anglo-Saxons arrived they established a kingdom between the river Witham and the Humber. In turn that

was overrun by a Danish army in the 9th century. Thousands of Viking artefacts were lost during that period and before the Normans invaded to embark on a major castle building project. In later centuries most of the conflicts already mentioned included episodes in Lincolnshire.

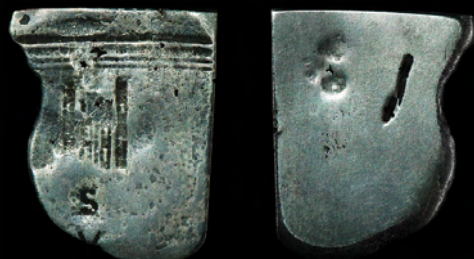
A striking difference between this county and the others lies in the number of ruined abbeys and monastic structures found in the landscape. The Church played an important part in developing and exploiting wool as a source of wealth, some of it used to build local churches. Crossroads and similar nodal points near to ecclesiastical ruins often became the sites of local markets and fairs in medieval times.



Lincolnshire 1 Roman bronze millefiori belt mount found in Lincolnshire



Lincolnshire 2 Celtic gold stater found North Lincolnshire



Lincolnshire 3 Civil War siege piece found in a Lincolnshire ploughed field

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Detecting Medley

by John Winter



John Bright

My regular subscriber Bob Burton of Birmingham has sent another interesting item found in the Midlands, which is relevant to the social history of the area.

What Bob dug up was a medal commemorating 25 years of John Bright being an MP for Birmingham; he served for a total of 30 years. I have seen other examples of this and variants on this medal, but none in better condition.

Bob tells me that the reverse shows the old Birmingham coat of arms and underneath the word FORWARD.

Bright was a Quaker and deemed the greatest orator of his day; his passionate speeches on causes close to his heart like the abolition of slavery, temperance and peace could

move large crowds. He first coined the famous description of England as, 'the mother of parliaments' in a speech made in 1865. Throughout his life he campaigned for causes that would improve the lives of working people, locally, nationally, and worldwide. Birmingham's *John Bright Street*, near the Alexander Theatre, is named in his honour.



Geometric coins



If you think you have something suitable or ideas for publication, then please email me at: john@johnwinter.com

Many detectorists will no doubt view the complex geometric forms made from coins notched and joined together as another kind of oddity. But what artist Robert Wechsler has done is to assemble an incredible assortment of 'sculptures' using pound coins, pennies and dimes and also coins from other countries.

Robert was commissioned by *The New Yorker* magazine to create the coin designs for a themed article they were doing on money. The fractal-like shapes were created using a

jeweller's saw to cut the notches and then linked together to create the fascinating variety of shapes and patterns, a couple of which are shown here. You can



see more of his work at robertwechsler.com

We all use currency on a daily basis. Through his work, Robert invites us to look at metal and paper forms with a different perspective, from fresh, shiny, and new, to aged and completely worn. Perhaps his work will inspire you to be just a little more creative with all those Victorian pennies you find!

I thank Robert for permission to use some of his images in my Medley.



An intimate tale

What links the Regis Cursan story reported in in my November 2014 *Medley* and that of Keith the Stormtrooper in the August 2014 edition? The answer is a brothel



token! Regis found his authentic example on the Thames foreshore.

When Keith Dodds' father died about five years ago he inherited a rather intriguing brass-like token. He had no idea of its age or provenance and whether it was genuine or not. On one side it says 10c Lookie, 25c Feelie and 50c Dooie. That made me laugh.

I suspect what Keith has is a brass reproduction fantasy token made since at least the 1960's for sale as a novelty. The key words are 'The China Doll',



an establishment that really existed in the legendary 'last frontier' town of Dodge City.

I suspect there were no original tokens from the 'business', so they are complete



fantasies. Fantasy tokens have been around so long that some people even collect them. If real ones do exist, they must be very rare.

Oddity 1 - Conjoined penny

Dave Hobson of the detectorist.co.uk forum found something recently that initially had him baffled by the look and feel and he thought he had uncovered a fake penny.

After weighing and a closer look he realised that what he had was two pennies stuck together. Even then he wasn't sure so uploaded it to the UKDFD for an expert opinion.

Rod Blunt replied and recorded the find as 'Two pennies of Edward I deliberately joined together, possibly by soldering. The exposed obverse is of class 4d. The exposed reverse is of a London coin of class 3. The reason for joining them together in this way is uncertain.' If you know of any reason or found anything similar then please let me know.



Oddity 2 - George III sixpence

David Maxwell is a very busy guy. He is Deputy Administrator on the Detecting Scotland forum, and he runs *Diggin' Scotland's Past* on the YouTube channel. He uses a CTX and has been detecting for about three years.

In a twist to what we usually read when detectorists find something spectacular or rather different, this coin was David's first find on a *Detecting Scotland* rally – and he discovered it after he'd only taken a few steps whilst walking **away** from the car! A clean-up back at home revealed a couple of oddities that made the coin not your usual 1816 sixpence.

One of the most important



parts of any British coin's design is its portrait of the monarch at the time, and there wasn't anything unusual there. The date on the coin tells us when it was minted and this was when David noticed the first oddity – the shape of the first '1' in

'1816' was most unusual! There are two views here with different lighting. Have you ever seen one like this before? David thinks that he may have picked up 'more than he bargained for' with his first signal.

If you look carefully on some

coins, preferably with a magnifying glass if your eyesight is like mine, you can usually see the designer's initials. But this coin had what appears to be the counter-stamped with initials that could be **GB** or **GR**, unless you know different. Counter-stamping, for many reasons, was quite prevalent in the 19th century, but not always easy to identify. Generally, coins were stamped to advertise a business, to make a political statement or as personal identification. Maybe it was a kind of 'test' mark, showing that the coin was genuine. I'm no expert. Perhaps someone can provide a more valid explanation.

RARE heraldic pendant

When 75 year-old maintenance technician Byron Matthews retired about ten years ago, his work colleagues presented him with a Bounty Hunter detector. Some time later he upgrade to a Minelab. He is currently Vice-Chairman of the Rhondda MDC (RARE) in Wales and manages to search most weekends.

It was during a *Detecting Wales* rally held in the Vale of Glamorgan that he found a small heraldic pendant that proved to be quite significant. Little did Byron know how relevant it would be to an understanding of local history. The copper-alloy pendant was



found less than a mile from the church in which its owner, Sir Roger Berkerolles is buried.

Mark Lodwick, the FLO for Wales, supplied a detailed report, including the following information, '... the heraldic device is likely to be the Arms of the Berkerolles family who had estates across the Vale of Glamorgan. In the church of St. Tathan lie the effigies of Katherine de Turberville and her husband Sir Roger Berkerolles (died 1351).' He ended his report by saying, 'the surface is heavily corroded and striped with a dark brown-red surface and remnants of a pale green patina on the rear.'

Heavily corroded or not ... full marks to Byron for saving

what initially looked like an unimportant artefact. Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned by all of us!



Cohns (sic) Lemonade



A post on the Australian forum *Dirt Fishing* attracted my attention recently. I don't know why, because it was entitled, *More of the Same*. Not exactly a 'come-on' for the readers, but nestling amongst a group of indistinguishable coins in a rather poor picture was an intriguing bit of Aussie social history.

The writer Heath, also known as Coffscratcher (don't ask!) described it as, "... an old bottle cap I thought was half-interesting". A simple bit of

research revealed that it was probably his star find that day, and very interesting.

History can be sometimes missed unless we take a closer look at what we unearth and sometimes simple research can lead us to discover 'treasure' in what was previously considered as 'junk'.

Three brothers from Denmark started the Cohn family business during the Bendigo gold rush in 1882. They introduced lager (served cold) to the Australian public.

The business lasted a century, with Cohn products sold across Australia and exported to the United Kingdom and Asia. In 1970 it was taken over by Carlton and United Breweries.

Another poster on the thread said, "I can remember drinking Cohn Brothers soft drinks when I was a young boy. They tasted magnificent – nothing like the sugary rubbish served up these days. You could actually taste the fruit in it!"

Glint of green patina

On those muddy and wet detecting days it is tempting to throw anything that looks uninteresting into the nearest hedge. But that would be a mistake, and is a lesson that every successful searcher learns, especially in the early days of the hobby.

Darren Dixon was detecting with his brother just outside York on a horrible cold and wet winter's day. The field was flooding and the rain was incessant. Darren commented, "We were finding lots of those boring four-holed buttons that screamed like gold coins."

They were also unearthing horseshoes and bits of



agricultural machinery. When digging one loud signal he didn't expect that the object covered in wet, sticky mud would be quite so interesting. Darren decided to go back to the car and investigate further. He said, "After a quick clean the object emerged from the crud with the glint of green patina ... I was glad that I hadn't launched it into the nearest hedgerow!"

What Darren had found was a complete, but heavily corroded cast copper alloy flanged axe head of the early Bronze Age. A full report can be found on the PAS Database, YORYM-F9C7A6.

The passion, vulgar or Honolulu penny

Some of you may be aware that I maintain a blog at johnwinter.net, described as *the scribblings of a metal detectorist*. It has been suggested by a couple of my subscribers that a wee article I posted last year is worthy of a larger audience.

My blog post started with a throwaway comment on an American detecting forum from a guy who said that when he lived in the UK he would 'get a kick' when finding a 'passion penny'. He didn't go into details, but this was enough to whet my appetite for more information. What I found led me on a quest to find and check all my pre-decimal pennies ...

In the 40s and 50s, Victorian pennies were still in circulation and I have quite a few in my collection found when detecting.

I checked first with Mr. Google, but on this occasion he let me down. In retrospect, it wasn't a good idea to use



the phrase PASSION PENNY as my search. I won't go into intimate details, but one of the alluring responses to my enquiry was *seductive and passionate curvy escort near Gatwick*.

It isn't often that an American tells me something about my own currency that I didn't already know. This was a first. Take a good look at the reverses of the old English pennies.

Take particular note of the trident Britannia holds in her hand. The earlier issue shown on the right shows her holding

it at a slightly different angle, with the lower end between her legs! Because of this it was dubbed the passion or vulgar penny. There is a story, most certainly a myth, that the guy who designed the coins was Irish and he disliked Great Britain.

Supposedly, as an insult, it is said he did that deliberately. The insult went unnoticed for several years. When officials finally recognised the slight, the coins were considered to be 'vulgar' because of the

indecently sexualised Britannia, and the design was altered.

I don't know if Victoria was amused or not, but I found that an interesting and funny story ... and one that was new to me! The truth is that the engraver was a chap called William Wyon and although of German descent, he was born in Birmingham.

Incidentally, the design showing Britannia with trident angled inward towards her upper thigh pre-dated the minting of Victoria's pennies and was quite common on copper coins and undermines the myth's assertion that the pose was offensive.

I understand that all bronze pennies minted between 1860 and 1894 were also known as 'Honolulu' pennies due to the position of the trident compared to those of later pre-decimal pennies. Now... where's that box of pennies, I hear you say.

Honolulu? Read it slowly.

Blast from the past

In the winter of 1993, Mike McCabe of the *Detecting Wales* online forum found a quite spectacular Georgian gold fob seal. Now known in detecting circles as *Mike the Fob*, he's been dining out on the story ever since! And rightly so! It's one of the best seals I've ever seen.

The seal matrix was featured in a *Searcher* magazine of that year and I reproduce it here again, only this time it is in glorious 'Technicolor'. Over 20 years ago most pictures (apart from the cover and some adverts) were published in monochrome.

It was described thus: "... attractive gold fob seal from the period 1760-1800 ... measures around 40mm from the top of the loop to the base, which houses a red cornelian engraved with the initials JP in Gothic style.

It is quite common to come across seals of this kind fabricated from an alloy called 'Pinchbeck' after its inventor, which consists approximately of five parts copper to one part zinc and achieves a very cheap and extremely deceptive imitation of gold. We have yet to see a piece of Pinchbeck from the ground, but we imagine that it wouldn't pass for gold ..."

The item appears to be 18 carat gold and weighs about 18 grams. With gold at £241 per Troy ounce (1953 prices), Mike's find contains £87 worth of the metal. However, he's not going to be melting it down, because his seal has a collector value of £400." The current price of gold is £753 per ounce.





Beginner's Luck!

I imagine that finding your first hammered silver coin is a bit like finding the Holy Grail to most detectorists. I certainly remember how chuffed I was when I found my first one, a rather battered short cross penny a couple of years ago. So imagine what it must feel like to find one on your very first time out with a detector and not only that but on your very first signal to boot!

Well, read on... I bought my wife, Marilyn, her first machine, an XP Deus at the end of March this year but for reasons beyond our control she was unable to get out and use it until the evening 17 July.

I took her to one of my permissions where I have found a couple of hammered coins in the past, the last one just five days previously. I gave her a brief run down on what to do (mind you, I'm by no means an expert) and gave her a coin to throw down every now and then to give her an idea of what a good signal should sound like. I then set up her Deus on the GM Power programme but with the frequency reduced to 11.7kHz and sent her on her way.

After 15 minutes or so she had only walked about 80 metres and having thrown the test coin a couple of times I heard her call out to me to come and check a signal she thought was what she was supposed to be listening out for.

Checking the signal with my own Deus the response, which was very crisp and clear, was showing a steady '81' on the conductivity scale from both directions. I told her that it was a definite digger and being the gentleman that I am, I cut the sod and turned it over.

Well, it was definitely a coin lying there in the soil and a large one at that but I thought it was just a pre-decimal penny. I bent down and picked it up and as soon as I felt the weight of it I could tell it wasn't a penny at all and could see that it had that dark grey look of a hammered silver coin and that it had a large oval shaped shield on the side I was looking at. I said to her "you are not going to believe this" and dropped the coin into her outstretched hand.

To say she was delighted was something of an understatement. The smile on her face would have put a Cheshire cat to shame. Neither of us could believe it. Bear



in mind that this is a woman who would get giddy with excitement whenever I brought home something old from a muddy field.

The coin was very clean considering how long it had lain in the ground with no soil adhering to it at all and it was quite easy to distinguish the details on both sides (well it was after we had put our glasses on).

It turned out to be a Charles I shilling with a portcullis mint mark which when checked later that evening proved to be dated to 1633/34.

Talk about beginners luck! On the way to the permission I'd been saying "wait and see, you will be one of those lucky so and so's that finds a hammered coin on the first time out". Little did we know just what a prediction that remark would turn out to be. Now, if we could only predict the lottery numbers ...

Personally, I didn't find anything of interest that evening, but we returned the next day, full of enthusiasm and raring to go and lo' and behold the tables were turned. Marilyn found a small spindle whorl which delighted her and I found not one but two hammered coins, which is a real rarity for me. First was an Elizabeth I sixpence dated 1568 and the second a James I sixpence dated 1604. Neither of which is in the best of condition but was delighted anyway.

I photographed, measured and weighed all the coins that day and sent the details, including the find site coordinates to our FLO, Dot Boughton, who actually put them onto the PAS database the very next day. So a big thank you to Dot.

Marilyn was really pleased to see something she had found under exceptionally good circumstances go from field to PAS database in such a short space of time. This is very encouraging for her and will further encourage her to record her finds in the future.

And finally, before signing off, to all those people just starting out on this fascinating hobby we would like to wish you beginners luck too. But always remember, if you don't actually find anything, forget the frustration, you will have found peace and quiet and that is a good thing in itself.

Let's hope that the good luck continues ...



James I 6d



Elizabeth I 6d



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Identifications made in this section are supplied by individual clubs

East Norfolk MDS

A well-attended January meeting produced some quality items to be judged in our Find of the Month competition. Winners were:

Ancient coin (Celtic & Roman)

1st Aelius sestertius 138 AD – Jean Chaplin



2nd Antoninus Pius denarius 138-161 AD – Dave Clarke

Early mediaeval coin (Saxon to Tealby)

1st East Anglian gold thrymsa c. 660 AD – Tim English



Later mediaeval coin (short-cross to Henry VII)

1st John short-cross penny, Oxford – Gerry Cook



2nd Henry VI halfpenny – Andy Carter

Post-mediaeval coin (Henry VIII to present day)

1st William III shilling, 1697, Chester – Jean Chaplin

2nd Henry VIII halfpenny, York – Andy Carter

Metal artefact (pre-Norman Conquest)

1st Roman cosmetic pestle – Tim English



2nd Late Saxon stirrup terminal – Jean Chaplin

Metal artefact (Post-Norman Conquest)

1st 12th century openwork mount – Peter Belson



2nd Mediaeval key – Gerry Cook

Non-metallic or Natural find

1st Flint thumbnail scraper – Dave Clarke

2nd Prehistoric potsherd – Tim English

Worst find

1st Half a clapperless bell – Peter Belson

2nd Pigeon-less leg bone and ring – Matt O'Driscoll

Tony Gregory Award for Best Find of the Month:

East Anglian gold thrymsa – Tim English
Andy Carter, Chairman

Norwich Detectors

The meeting was very well attended, and in addition to well stocked monthly finds tables there was a mouth watering buffet generously provided by donations made by members. The monthly awards were as follows:

Find of the Month

10th Century buckle and plate depicting a seated king – Jerry Wentford



Artefact of the Month

10th Century stirrup mount – David Soanes



Coin of the Month: Ancient to 1066

Celtic Boar Horse silver unit – Steve Sproule



1066 to 1509

Edward I jetton – Kelly Forster



1509 to Modern

Elizabeth I halfpenny – Kelly Forster

Tony Gregory Award

Lead cloth seal – David Soanes

Committee Award

Lead powder measure – Mark Dover

Worst Find Award

Green painted tractor pin – Damon Pye.

We would like to wish all our fellow detectorists across the country a very happy and productive New Year.

Graeme Simmonds, Chairperson

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Our finds for December 2014 were:

Artefact

1st Hans Krauwinkle jetton – Charlie Atkinson



2nd Lead spindle whorl – Dave Robinson



3rd Bronze key – Kev Robinson



Coin

1st Henry III cut halfpenny – Charlie Atkinson



2nd Victoria farthing – Dave Robinson
Charlie Atkinson

CYMDC

The December meeting was really well attended and a wonderful buffet was put on by Marlene and Trevor.

The annual trophies were presented according to cumulative points through the year as follows: Coins – Howard Green, Artefacts – John Swallow, Under 300 year finds – Howard Green, and the Wayne Doolan Trophy was awarded to Paul Fowler.

The monthly competitions were won by: Coin of the month

Saxon styca of Osbert – Howard Green



Artefact of the month

Anglo Saxon strap end – John Pawson



Under 300 years

Old find a silver thimble – Tony Wilson

Other finds of note were a Roman brooch – Frank Andrusyk and an Edward the Confessor penny – Howard Green.



John Pawson

SE London MDC

The Christmas meeting and Find of the Year was held in the Sidcup Working Mans club where the regular raffles; Andy's prize raffle and Mary's cash raffle are always popular. And this is the second year that we have had the monthly find raffle, a ticket for every find put in the monthly find of the month (up to four items). Rae cleaned up this year winning at least eight prizes (I lost count) well done Rae! The buffet put on by the WMC was good, as it usually is.

Find of the year category winners were as follows:

Celtic/Roman – Coin

Silver unit – Rae

Celtic/Roman – Artefact

Roman brooch – J. Dunford

Saxon/Viking – Coin

Eadmond half pence – D. Flint



Medieval – Coin

Henry VI one penny – P. Brown

Medieval – Artefact

Bracteate (gold) – B. Wood



Tudor – Coin

Henry VIII groat – P. Brown

Tudor – Artefact

Tudor thimble – J. Dunford



1700 to 1900 – Coin

Jetton – Rae

1700 to 1900 – Artefact

G. Stephenson medal – P. Brown

Modern – Artefact

Gold Diamond ring – D. Flint

Find of the year was awarded to D. Flint for his nice Eadmond half pence (shame it was damaged). Detectorist of the year was D. Flint with the most points from the find of the month competitions, and Rae got a trophy for being runner up. I wish all the club members, yourself and readers of this fine magazine good luck in the coming year.

Andrew Richards

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Essex Detector Society

Here are the winners from our last competitions:

Coin

1st Saxon sceatta plumed bird – Nick Argent



2nd George III Maundy penny – Rick Johnson

3rd Henry III Irish voided long cross penny – Julie Argent



Artefact

1st Charles I gold unite coin weight – Nick Argent



2nd Roman tweezers – Rick Johnson



3rd Angel coin weight, Steve Connell

Other finds in the competition

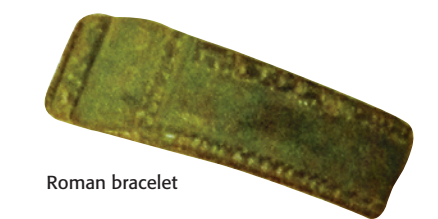
Hadrian denarius, Liam Argent; Edward I penny, Steve Connell; Spectacle buckle, Julie Argent; Copper crucifix, Tony Robson; Roman ring, Liam Argent.

Tony Robson

Trowbridge and District MDC

This month we held our Christmas meeting followed by welcome hot and cold food. There was a presentation about a club visit to Down Farm, near Salisbury and fun quizzes hosted by Dave Crisp. There were lots of raffle prizes including items from Minelab and Regtons.

The find of the month winners were Ivy MacFarlane with a Saxon porcupine sceat coin, and Gary Cook with a Roman buckle. Other coin finds included Roman and hammered and artefacts such as part of a Roman bracelet.



Roman bracelet



Buckle



Roman silver



Saxon coin

David Rees, Chairman

Lune Valley MDC

We had a good turnout with plenty of finds on the table. Karl Draper, who missed the December meeting, was presented with the trophy for find of the year, a very nice zoomorphic strap end from February 2014.

Find of the month results were:

Coin pre 1662

Gold crezado of John the Pious of Portugal – Karl Draper



Coin post 1662

Silver fanam 1764-1807 – Charles Kenyon



Artefact pre 1500

Anglo Saxon wrist clasp – Eddie Bethwaite



Artefact post 1500

Lead soldier – Karl Draper

Also on the table and worthy of mention was a Henry III penny found by Eddie Bethwaite and a Napoleon III found by Vera Randall.



Meetings are held every first Tuesday of the month at Lansil Sports & Social Club in Lancaster at 7.30pm.

Brian Randall, Chairman

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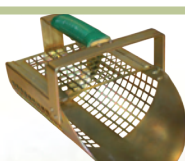
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Colchester MD & Artefact Club

The winner of the best coin went to Dick Watcham using an XP Power and the winner of the best artefact with a very nice Roman bow brooch was John Wilde using a Deus.



We had a general knowledge quiz run by Roy Charlton and a cash prize of £50.00 was shared by the winning team. We had to say goodbye to our FLO of two years Katie Marsden and would like to wish her well in her new career. The Chairman thanked Katie and presented her with a card signed by all our members and also a cheque, and wished her well on her forthcoming marriage as well.

Barry Heaves, Chairman

St Edmund Searchers

We had our Christmas raffle and buffet which was a very enjoyable night. There were a great many items in the raffle with the main aim; to generate money for the charity that we support throughout the year. This year it is the East Anglian Air Ambulance. On the night we raised £694 of which half will go in the charity fund.



Can I take this opportunity to thank all those that donated some great prizes: Regtons, Whites, Detecnicks, *The Searcher*, *Treasure Hunter*, Evolution, Minelab, Crawfords, Garrett, Thurlow Nunn Standen, Ben Burgess, and all the club members that where so generous thank you all.

Graham Tredgett

Wrexham Heritage Society

The winners of this months finds competition were as followed:

Coins pre 1700

Edward III halfgroat – Lawrence Guiel



Artefact pre 1700

Roman ring – Adam Guiel



Artefact post 1700

Spindle whorl (local design) – Lawrence Guiel



Adam Guiel

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Invicta seekers

The results for November are the following:

Coins

1st Celtic (Cantiaci) silver unit – Gill Davies



2nd Henry III penny – Ian Lee



Artefacts

1st Solid gold dental plate (1920/30s) – Gill Davies



2nd Anglo-Saxon/Medieval buckle – John Poole



3rd A Pig (cast in-the-round) – Billy Byles



Competition results were:

Coins:

1st Philip and Mary groat – Mick Longman



2nd James I shilling – Simon Read



3rd Medieval coin – Tony Mills



Artefacts:

1st Saxon strap end – John Poole



2nd Part of Georgian brooch – David Williams

3rd Brass artefact with bullet – Gus Theobald



Greg Sweetman

SHRADS

The Chairman was able to forward a cheque for £250 to St Peters Hospice this brings the total so far to £1750 and represents 721kg of scrap lead from our club sites.

Club competition results:

Club site coin:

1st 1853 Victorian 1/2 sovereign – Nick Keeler



2nd Elizabeth I penny – Dave Whalley



3rd Short cross cut 1/4 – Chris Goodchild



Club site artefact:

1st Tudor buckle – Chris Goodchild

Any site find:

Joint 1st 16th Century pommel – Alan Ward



George III shilling – Frank Kennedy

2nd Cut quarter penny – Dave Whalley

Joint 3rd Edward II 1/2 penny – Frank Kennedy



Maltese Cross – Susan Hurrell



Keith Arnold



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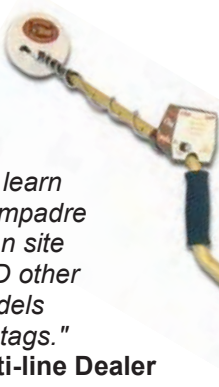
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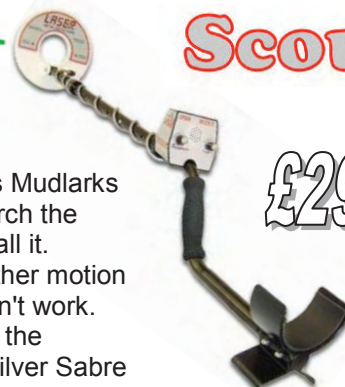
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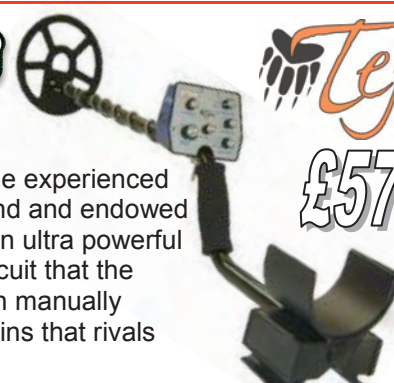
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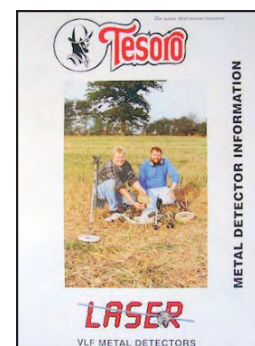


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Herts & District MDS

The Coin of the Month winner was: an Aethelred II penny found by Peter Tilson and the best Artefact: a Roman enamelled brooch discovered by Sheila Batchelor. Some other finds unearthed during the month included: a Roman bow brooch from Peter Tilson, a Portuguese Joannes V 1000 reis dated 1720 from David Roberts and a Henry VII half groat found by Denis Holland.

The club's annual donation to charity for this year went to the Army Benevolent Fund. A cheque for £300 was raised by our Free Recoveries, the auction profits and two generous donations. Thanks to all involved in this great effort for a worthy cause.



Aethelred II penny – Peter Tilson



Portuguese Joannes V 1000 reis 1720 – David Roberts



Roman bow brooch – Peter Tilson



Roman enamelled brooch – Sheila Batchelor

David Roberts, Chairman

Hinckley Search Society

Our December meeting was a free and easy evening with a buffet for members and partners plus the Christmas raffle and blackout. Not many finds this month due to lack of land and very wet fields that are under crop that we will eventually be able to detect when dry.

Competition results:

Coin of the month:

John short cross penny – Barrie Davis



Artefact of the month:

Silver bodkin – Anita Malin



January Finds

We are trying to get more help from members to step up and find land for us to detect on as committee members are struggling to cope. The club will continue at present to give members meetings and digs where possible and provide access to the FLO.

Competition results:

Coin of the month:

Cornelia denarius – Tom Mooney



Artefact of the month:

Roman umbonate brooch – Bill Bieleit



Coin of the year:

Gold stater – Barrie Davis



Artefact of the year:

Saxon saucer brooch – Ian Smith



Club Dig year winner

Mike Anderson

David Mann PRO

Weymouth & Portland MDC

Our December meeting was exceptionally busy mainly due to it being our annual Christmas raffle. The raffle was expertly run by Peter and Duncan with over 70 nice prizes, a percentage of the takings going to the local Air Ambulance charity and the rest going into the prizes. A big thank you to them both for doing a grand job!

We had our usual Finds of the Month competition the results were:

Coin of the Month

1st Philip & Mary groat – Ron Howse



2nd Edward III groat – Allan Carey



3rd Charles I penny – Mark Ellard

Artefact of the Month

1st Gold posy ring – Clive Smith



2nd Saxon stirrup mount – Joe Dillon



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West Riding Detector Group

Our monthly meeting took place on 8 December.

The find of the month winners were:

Best Artefact:

Bronze Age arrowhead – Owen Orme



Best coin:

Henry VI halfpenny – Ian Briggs



Some of our other winners were:

Modern category, Artefact:

Watch chain fob – Peter Spencer



Modern category, Coin

William III halfpenny – Peter Andrews

Medieval category, Artefact:

Medieval key – Julian Szulc



The January find of the month winners were:

Best Artefact

Saxon strap end – Peter Smith.



We had joint winners for Best coin:

Saxon sceat – Peter Smith



Henry VII half groat – Brian Scholes



Other winners were:

Modern Artefact:

Silver thimble – Tony Bray



Eyes only Section:

Honing stone – Brenda Orme

Grenville Shuttleworth

Blackpool MDC

Blackpool MDC wishes all its fellow detecting clubs the very best for 2015 and happy searching for those elusive finds.

Our January meeting was also the occasion of our AGM, at which our chairperson Hilary stood down, though she continues as club secretary. Her leadership and hard work in recent years drew a well deserved round of applause, as she was succeeded as chair by Joe Brookes. Anybody interested in joining us can come along on the first Thursday of each month to the room above Tyldesley Conservative Club, Tyldesley Rd., Blackpool at 8pm.

Our January finds competitions witnessed a virtual clean sweep across the categories by Keith Phillipson:

Results of January competitions:

Coins pre 1662

1st Edward II penny – Keith Phillipson



Coins post 1662

1st George III 1816 sixpence – Keith Phillipson

Keith Phillipson



Artefact pre 1500

1st Bronze Age axehead circa 2000 BC – Keith Phillipson



2nd Single loop buckle 1300-1500 – Chris Gardiner

Artefact post 1500

1st 17thC Georgian harness boss – Keith Phillipson



2nd George III halfpenny counterstamped 'James' – Chris Gardiner



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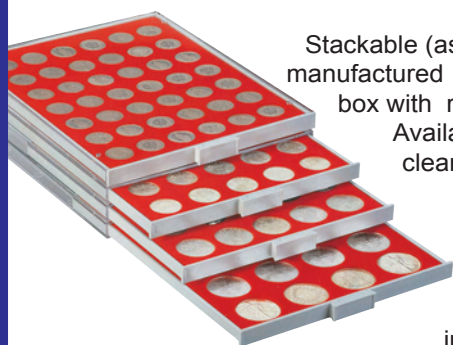
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South Lancs & Cheshire MDC

At our Christmas bash there was a free buffet for the members and what a spread we had. Betty Grimes, and Chris the caterer did us proud. Following on, we had a superb raffle organised by Barry and Pauline Rice with plenty of festive prizes to be won; Bingo, (with a dodgy caller) and to round off the night, our annual 'nearest the bottle' competition, won this year by Andy Critchley.

We have enjoyed another excellent year and a huge thank you to the Committee and all who contributed in any way.

Competition Results:

Late coin

Victorian half sovereign 1867 – Jim Cody



Early coin

Denarius Antoninus Pius – Mark Batty



Late find

19th C. door knocker – Jackie Smith



Early find

Cast lead alloy comb Post Medieval – George Hampson



Hoard

George III coin hoard (4 shillings & 2 sixpences) – John Blackburn

Cliff Passey, Chairman

A Happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to you all!

The quiet post Christmas meeting began with the Chairman giving a brief review and he confirmed that John Titchen had retained his 'Detectorist of the Year', having finished with 126.5 points. Runner up for the second year in succession was Mark Redfern with 118.5 points and it was nice to see Jackie Smith finishing a creditable third with 104 points.

Well done to everybody who took part, Ritchie Leech and Jim Cody who organised it and our photographer Gary Owens for taking the pictures.

Competition results

Pre-1700 Find

Bronze Age adze for working wood 1500-1150 BC – Mark Batty



Post-1700 Find

Gold posy ring 22k 'A True Friends Gift' 1700-1800 – John Titchen



Pre-1662 Coin

Venetian soldino by Doge Leonardo Loredan 1501/21 – Mark Batty



Post-1662 Coin

William III shilling 1698 – Allen Shilton



Cliff Passey, Chairman

Two Dales MDC

The winners of the find of the month competitions for January were:

Coin of the month unusually was a split decision as members really couldn't decide between an Elizabeth sixpence found by Bill Swainston and an Aethelred II styca found by David Whelan.



Artefact of the month was an enamel mount found by Rob Brown and the modern find was a livery button found by Bill Swainston.



Andy Whelan

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Royal Phoenix DG

2014 will be remembered for a number of good reasons including: the club digs, the excellent finds submitted for The Find of The Month Competition, the guest speakers, new member Frederik Olivier's discovery of a gold First World War medal, the side show arena of the East Kent Ploughing Match with a detector finds exhibition, a summer BBQ and the introduction of a new and coveted members award namely The Red Bus Award. This award is going to be a yearly one which is presented to the group member who the Committee considers over a period of time has gone above and beyond the call of duty to promote us and our activities. For 2014 it was presented to Publicity Officer Paul Shrubb for his contribution in previous years.

Membership is presently full however for further information or to add your name to the waiting list please email Brian at b.smith48@mypostoffice.co.uk

Paul Shrubb




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Lot 248

Saleroom Scene

The auction held by Spink on 22 and 23 September was made up of 1226 lots of ancient, British and foreign coins in gold, silver and base metal, plus a few books. Featured on this page are some of the British coins that changed hands. The prices quoted are before the addition of the 20% buyers' premium and any VAT that may have been payable. The references are to standard works on Ancient British and English coins.

Lot 3, Ancient British stater, uninscribed, series F, Clacton type 1, S. 27, ABC 2329, oddly shaped flan, good VF, very rare, £1,300.



Lot 3

Lot 6, Ancient British stater, uninscribed, series Qa, Remic type, S. 38, ABC 485, VF, slightly off centre, £450.

Lot 7, Ancient British quarter stater, East Wiltshire, horse with wheel below, under which is a zigzag line. S. 48 var., VF, the variety possibly unique, £3,200.

Lot 8, Ancient British stater, an inscribed issue of the Regni and Atrebat, Commius, S. 66, ABC 1025, good VF, scarce, £1,900.



Lot 8

Lot 10, Ancient British stater, uninscribed, Cantiaci, series Lz, S. 169, ABC 180 (Late Weald Net type), EF, well centred, extremely rare, £8,000.

Lot 13, Ancient British stater, Catuvellauni, Tasciovanus, TASCI RICON in panel on obverse, S. 219, ABC 2580, EF, attractive, rare, £6,000.



Lot 13

Lot 15, Ancient British stater, Catuvellauni and Trinovantes. Cunobelin, plastic type, CVNO below horse on reverse. S. 287, ABC 2789, EF, toned, an extremely rare variety, £4,000.

Lot 18, Ancient British stater, Dobunni, inscribed issue, ANTED type, S. 379 var., ABC 2066, VF, well struck, an excessively rare variety, £3,000.



Lot 18

Lot 22, Ancient British stater, Corieltavi, inscribed issue, VEP CORF type, S. 410, ABC 1854, about EF, large flan, rare, £1,800.

Lot 27, Ancient British stater, Dobunni, inscribed issue, [CA]TI above horse, S. 384, ABC 2057, VF, rare, £1,500.

Lot 71, Philip and Mary sixpence, 1554, full titles, S. 2505, good Fine but pitting and several scratches, £230.



Lot 71

Lot 81, Anglo-Saxon gold thrymsa, PADA type Ia, S. 770, a few scuffs, otherwise good VF and extremely rare, from the 1988 Coddanham find, £4,200.

Lot 84, Offa penny of London, light coinage, without portrait, moneyer Winoth, S. 904, VF, attractive, £2,100.

Lot 89, Coenwulf of Mercia penny, tribrach type, moneyer Diola, S. 914, nearly EF, deliberately bent into a rectangular shape, found in Worcestershire during 2013, £700.



Lot 89

Lot 91, Ceolwulf of Mercia penny, portrait/cross and lozenge, moneyer Liofvald, S. 944, small peck marks on reverse, otherwise nearly EF, of great rarity, £15,000.



Lot 91

Lot 140, Aethelred II penny of Lincoln, last small cross type, moneyer Bruntat, pellet in field on reverse S. 1154 var., nearly EF, £420.

Lot 200, Cnut penny of Southwark, posthumous issue, jewel cross type, moneyer Leofric, S. 1160, slightly porous and bowed,

otherwise nearly EF and very rare, found in Lincolnshire during 2013, £4,800.



Lot 200

Lot 215, Edward the Confessor penny of Derby, hammer cross type, moneyer Leofwine, S. 1182, VF, very rare, £2,500.

Lot 224, Henry I penny of Southwark, facing bust/cross fleury type, moneyer Lifwine, S. 1271, good Fine, off centre and striking crack, £350.



Lot 224

Lot 228, Stephen penny of Worcester, 'Watford' type, moneyer Wulfric, S. 1278, some scrapes and slight flaking, otherwise nearly VF for issue, the mint rare, £650.

Lot 229, Stephen penny, irregular Civil War issue, imitating the 'Watford' type, moneyer William, obverse legend uncertain, S. 1278 var., some metal loss from scraping leaving flat area on both sides, otherwise VF and extremely rare, £1,100.



Lot 229

Lot 232, Edward I penny of London, class Ia, S. 1380, small knock on bust and edge split, good Fine and very rare, £450.

Lot 234, Edward I farthing of London, class Ic, S. 1443A, some weakness to obverse legend, otherwise good VF, £200.



Lot 234

Lot 248, Henry IV groat of London, light coinage, an obverse die of class I muled with a reverse die of Richard II, S. 1726/1681, VF, extremely rare, £6,200.

Lot 250, Henry IV penny of Durham, light coinage, trefoil on breast, S. 1735, light scratch on king's forehead, otherwise good VF for issue and very rare, £950.



Lot 250

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